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Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Evaluation of UNCTAD activities: an in-depth external evaluation of UNCTAD's commodities programme

Agreed conclusions

1. In-depth evaluation of UNCTAD's commodities programme

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget,

Having considered the report "In-depth external evaluation of UNCTAD's commodities programme" (TD/B/WP/213), its supporting materials (TD/B/WP/214) and the document prepared by the secretariat "Management response to the in-depth external evaluation of UNCTAD's commodities programme" (TD/B/WP(53)/CRP. 1),

1. *Commends and expresses* appreciation to the evaluation team for its report, and to the secretariat for the support provided to the evaluation process, and to the Government of Norway for its financial support;

2. *Takes note* of the findings of the report of the evaluation team, and expresses concern at the problems and shortcomings raised by the evaluation team, reiterates that UNCTAD has a central role to play as a thought leader on commodity-related development issues, recognizes the efforts since then to enhance performance in the area of commodities in implementing the Accra Accord, including the establishment of the Special Unit on Commodities under the direct guidance and leadership of the Secretary-General;

3. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the evaluation report, taking into consideration the comments made on the report during the session, notes the steps already taken by the secretariat in this direction, and requests the secretariat to implement the endorsed recommendations within UNCTAD's mandate;

4. *Welcomes* the contributions made by donors to this programme of work, encourages the Special Unit on Commodities to increase its productivity along the lines of the recommendations, and encourages the donor community to increase its financial support for initiatives in this programme of work;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to report back on the progress made in the implementation of the endorsed recommendations at the next session of the Working Party on technical cooperation, bearing in mind some recommendations – e.g. filling of vacant posts with highly qualified staff with relevant skills – are immediate or short-term. Therefore requests the secretariat to report back on the implementation of all recommendations in the next Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board in 2010.

2. Evaluation plan

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget,

Having considered the evaluation plan proposed by the secretariat,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the independent evaluation process in UNCTAD and requests the secretariat to implement the plan as follows:

(a) For 2010: An in-depth evaluation of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities dedicated to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and structurally weak, vulnerable small economies;

(b) For 2011: An in-depth evaluation of UNCTAD's programme on science and technology for development;

2. On an exceptional basis, *requests* an independent evaluation of UNCTAD's programme of assistance to the Palestinian people by an external evaluator, and recommends that the results of the evaluation be considered by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-eighth session, under its agenda item on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people.
