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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FINANCING OF PARTICIPATION
OF EXPERTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION IN UNCTAD'S
INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT MEETINGS**

1. Paragraph 210 of the Accra Accord states as follows:

Funding for the participation of experts from developing countries, including LDCs, and countries with economies in transition must be sustainable and predictable. Funding will come from the trust fund that exists for this purpose, and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD is requested to make a renewed, sustained effort to attract contributions to the fund on a priority basis. Member States are encouraged to contribute to the fund.

2. In implementation of this request, the Secretary-General sent a letter to all member States on 14 November. In the letter, the Secretary-General:

- Stated his intention to build up sufficient funds to ensure financing of experts for all UNCTAD expert meetings for at least the next two years in order to ensure continuity and predictability. Assuming that 10 experts will be financed for each meeting (three from each developing region, with special attention to LDCs, and one from transition economies), the amount involved would be approximately \$670,000.

- Suggested that individual donors consider the possibility of making even a modest contribution. In this way, the burden would be shared among a reasonable number of members, as would ownership of the expert meeting process.
 - Urged Governments to give favourable consideration to the possibility of contributing to the trust fund for the financing of experts attending UNCTAD expert meetings.
3. On 25–26 November, the Secretary of the Trade and Development Board met with the regional coordinators to draw attention to the importance of the issue of financing of experts and to appeal for contributions. Appeals have also been made in the context of other UNCTAD meetings, notably by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD at the consultations of the President on 15 December 2008 and 26 February 2009.
4. Both prior to and subsequent to the dispatch of the Secretary-General's letter of 14 November, the secretariat, in its informal interactions with member States from all groups, has consistently raised the matter with a view to seeking contributions.
5. With regard to the results of this effort, a number of member States have indicated that they are considering the matter but are not yet in a position to enter into a commitment. Three member States have contributed: Turkey (\$40,000); Switzerland (\$24,000) and India (\$15,000).
6. Pending the receipt of new contributions, the secretariat has been using unexpended funds from the trust fund to finance the participation of some experts in expert meetings. Upon completion of the last round of expert meetings, there remained a sum of approximately \$16,500 dollars for expert financing.
7. The funds available have been used to finance experts from the following countries:
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation: Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Mongolia
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South-South Cooperation and Regional Integration: Nepal, El Salvador, Burkina Faso, Burundi
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development: Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Madagascar, Azerbaijan
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation: Cuba, Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Comoros

Multi-year Expert Meeting on services, development and trade: Paraguay, Benin, Malawi

Multi-year expert meeting on commodities and development: Ethiopia, Uganda

Expert meeting on mainstreaming gender in trade policy: Tanzania

Expert meeting on trade and climate change: Angola, Papua New Guinea, Peru

8. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD wishes to express his sincere appreciation to the governments of Turkey, Switzerland and India for the contributions they have made. He also wishes to place on record his appreciation to the following member States that made contributions totalling \$116,300 between UNCTAD XI and UNCTAD XII: China; India; Ireland; Italy; Saudi Arabia; Switzerland; United Kingdom. Finally, he appeals to all member States once again to consider the possibility of making contributions.