



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/B/WP/L.104
1 February 2002

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirty-eighth resumed session
Geneva, 17 – 18 January 2002
Agenda item 7

**REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME: DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003**

Agreed conclusions ¹

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

Having considered, in accordance with its own decision taken at its resumed thirty-seventh session, the impact on system-wide coordination aspects contained in subprogramme 5 (Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) of the decision of the General Assembly on an efficient and highly visible follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

1. *Welcomes* the creation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and *emphasizes* the importance of close cooperation between the new Office of the High Representative and UNCTAD so as to maximize synergies and complementarities in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community;

¹ As adopted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget at the final plenary meeting of its resumed thirty-eighth session, on 18 January 2002.

2. *Expresses* its concern with the negative impact on UNCTAD's analytical and technical work resulting from the transfer of posts out of UNCTAD to the new Office of the High Representative. In this context, it *takes note* of the programmatic changes in subprogramme 5, as reflected in document TD/B/WP/L.103, *draws attention* to the serious implications for LDCs, Landlocked developing countries and small island developing States resulting from the reduction or discontinuation of the activities listed in the annex, and *underscores* the need to explore possibilities of minimizing their negative impact;

3. *Expresses further* its preoccupation with the reduced overall level of resources allocated to UNCTAD for 2002-2003 in light of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution contained in document A/C.2/56/L.78 calling for enhancing the operational capacity of UNCTAD;

4. *Considers* that, in enhancing the operational capacity of UNCTAD, full consideration should also be given to the activities for UNCTAD generated by the outcomes of the 4th WTO Ministerial Meeting and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on work on landlocked developing countries, including the holding of the ministerial meeting scheduled for 2003;

5. *Considers also* that the contribution of consultants is important for the delivery by UNCTAD of high-quality technical work and that in future this matter should receive special attention in the allocation of funds;

6. *Requests* the Chairman of the Working Party to transmit the report of the Working Party on its current session to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to transmit the report of the Working Party to the appropriate authorities in United Nations Headquarters;

8. *Welcomes* the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to member States to continue contributing generously to the UNCTAD Trust Fund on LDCs.

Annex

Programmatic implications for subprogramme 5: Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

1. The Working Party requested the following extract from the UNCTAD section of the Programme Budget for 2002-2003 that reflects those activities in UNCTAD that will be (a) downsized and (b) discontinued as a result of transfer of posts out of UNCTAD. The listing of two sets of activities will thus provide a clear picture of the impact on UNCTAD's analytical and technical work of the transfer of resources to the Office of the High Representative for Least developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

(a) *Work/activities that will be downsized*

- (i) *Least developed countries:* (a) UNCTAD's "annual" report on LDCs, which would be "biennialized"; (b) advisory services, especially those relating to the Programme of Action as a whole.
- (ii) *Landlocked developing countries and small island developing States:* (a) one less report (out of two for the biennium) on measures to improve the transit transport systems of landlocked countries and on transit transport systems in African, Asian and Latin American land-locked developing countries; (b) four instead of eight non-recurrent publications/studies on specific regions/issues related to transit transport; (c) advisory services in favour of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

(b) *Work/activities that will be discontinued*

- (i) *Least developed countries:* (a) that part of UNCTAD's report on the least developed countries that addresses system-wide issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action; (b) the preparation/publication of the annual statistical profile on LDCs; (c) the Internet home page on overall LDC issues;
- (ii) *Landlocked developing countries and small island developing States:* (a) biennial report on landlocked developing countries to the General Assembly; (b) substantive servicing of the General Assembly on matters related to landlocked developing countries; (c) parliamentary support for the ministerial meetings of landlocked developing countries; and (d) contribution to the Small States Forum within the framework of the annual meetings of the World Bank; (e) ad hoc expert group on opportunities for joint ventures on transit transport between land-locked and transit developing countries.

2. The resources allocated to activities indicated under (a) and (b) above amounted to 108 work months.

3. The Working Party did not find it necessary to comment on those activities discontinued in UNCTAD and taken over by the Office of the High Representative, amounting to 36 work months.