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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Second resumed thirty-eighth session
Geneva, 15 May 2002
Agenda item 5

**FINANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS FROM DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION
IN UNCTAD'S EXPERT MEETINGS**

Decision ¹

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

Recalling its decision at the first part of its thirty-eighth session in September 2001 requesting the Chairman to hold informal consultations with all interested delegations on the financing of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition with the purpose of reaching an agreement on this matter,

Recognizing that, in order to build consensus and have views reflected in expert discussions, it is important that experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition be able to participate in UNCTAD expert meetings,

Recalling paragraph 15 of the guidelines for the functioning of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery (TD/B(S-XIX)/4) adopted in Bangkok at the nineteenth special session of the Board on the Mid-term Review, which states that the participation of experts from developing countries in UNCTAD expert meetings will be enhanced through the provision of predictable financial resources,

¹ As adopted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget at the final plenary meeting of its second resumed thirty-eighth session on 15 May 2002.

Further recalling the annex of the guidelines, particularly paragraph 1, where members: agreed to find, by the end of 2002, a long-term solution for predictable financing of the participation of experts in intergovernmental expert meetings, taking into consideration the enhancement of the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition based on the principle of equitable geographical representation, beneficiary needs, in particular LDCs, and the expertise of the experts concerned; further agreed to continue the necessary consultations in the Working Party; and decided that, in the event that a solution is not reached, a special session of the Board will be held to resolve the matter,

Noting that the special provisions for financing of experts have facilitated the participation of experts from developing countries, and that such participation has enhanced the quality and relevance of both the discussions at, and the outcome of, expert meetings and that the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD has clearly benefited from their participation,

1. *Notes* the assurances provided by the secretariat concerning the availability of funding for the financing of 10 experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition per expert meeting for all expert meetings in 2002 and for some expert meetings in 2003;

2. *Welcomes* the extrabudgetary contributions from a number of countries in that connection and *invites* contributions from donors to fill the funding gap for 2003;

3. *Decides* to continue consultations in order to find, by the end of 2002, a long-term solution for predictable financing of the participation of experts in intergovernmental expert meetings, in accordance with the annex to the guidelines for the functioning of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery;

4. *Further decides* to include the issue of financing of experts as an item on the agenda for its thirty-ninth session in September 2002; and *calls on* the Chairman of the Working Party to continue informal consultations with a view to reaching solution(s) to the issue of long-term financing and to report to the thirty-ninth session on the outcome of such consultations;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to its Chairman for his efforts in finding a short-term solution for 2002-2003 for the financing of experts and in putting in motion the mechanism for reaching a long-term solution for predictable funding.