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Sixty-sixth session

## Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-sixth session\*

Geneva, 24 to 27 June 2019

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\* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-sixth session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 24 to 27 June 2019.



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## Introduction

The sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 24 to 27 June 2019. In the course of the session, the Board held eight plenary meetings, the 1181st to the 1188th.

### I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

#### A. Fifteenth session of the Conference

##### Decision 547 (LXVI)

The Trade and Development Board recognizes the generous offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the World Investment Forum and an e-commerce week for Asia in 2020, and welcomes the generous offer of the Government of Barbados to host the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2020, and. The Board also welcomes the agreement between the two countries that they will co-chair these events.

*1184th plenary meeting  
25 June 2019*

##### Decision 548 (LXVI)

The Trade and Development Board formally requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to prepare his report to the fifteenth session of the Conference.

*1188th plenary meeting  
27 June 2019*

#### B. Other action taken by the Board

##### Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

1. At its 1187th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report on the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, as contained in document [TD/B/EDE/3/3](#).
2. The Chair of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, in presenting the report, noted that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts had deferred a decision on the provisional agenda of its fourth session to the Board and adopted the terms of reference and agreed on the topics for the first meeting of the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy.<sup>1</sup>
3. On the matter of the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, the President of the Board encouraged regional coordinators to come to an agreement as soon as possible. He would hold consultations to make sure of progress, with a view to enabling the Board to take action at its sixty-eighth executive session on the provisional agenda.

<sup>1</sup> See [TD/B/EDE/3/3](#), chapter I, section A.

**Fifteenth session of the Conference**

4. At its 1184th plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board recognized the generous offers of the Government of Barbados and the Government of the United Arab Emirates and welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Barbados to host the fifteenth session of the Conference (see chapter I, section A).

5. Also at its 1184th plenary meeting, the Board requested that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD prepare his report to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see chapter I, section A). The President of the Board noted that, as was customary, member States looked forward to the report and expressed the desire that it should be made available as soon as possible, to enable regional groups to begin work on their position papers.

6. At its 1188th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board approved a draft decision on the venue for the fifteenth session of the Conference, as contained in a non-paper presented to the Board, for the consideration of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its seventy-fourth session (see annex I).

7. Also at its 1188th plenary meeting, one delegate emphasized that the World Investment Forum was a multi-stakeholder event that was not and should not be a part of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD. She expressed satisfaction with the solution found for the fifteenth session of the Conference in 2020, but the forum should continue in its usual format in the future.

**Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2018–2019 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

8. At its 1187th plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Chair of the Advisory Body for 2018–2019.

9. The representative of the Chair of the Advisory Body presented the report.

10. The representative of one regional group and many delegates expressed appreciation for the UNCTAD secretariat's capacity-building work through the regional and short courses conducted on international economic issues under the paragraph 166 programme, described as excellent. Several delegates commended efforts in gathering 20 participants from five developing regions to share cross-regional perspectives and participate in follow-up training in June 2019.

11. Many delegates expressed their appreciation to the host countries of the regional courses, which enabled developing countries to better understand economic trends and formulate policies by enhancing the capabilities of government officials, for stronger institutions. They commended the regional courses' integrated treatment of trade and development and curricula that reflected the Sustainable Development Goals. Most of the delegates also emphasized the knowledge participants gained and its impact on the ability to undertake policy formulation, calling on UNCTAD to continue delivering the programme in developing regions and to diplomats in Geneva.

12. The representative of Egypt noted the usefulness and relevance of the fortieth regional course, held in the fourth quarter of 2018 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. The representative of Kenya reported on the forty-first regional course for African economies, held in the country between 25 March and 5 April 2019, with 27 participants from 21 countries. The representative of Serbia noted the country's continued interest in hosting the regional courses for Eastern Europe; 22 participants from 12 Eastern European economies took part in the thirty-ninth course in Belgrade, held from 25 June to 6 July 2018. The representative of

Colombia recalled the course to be held in July 2019, with 26 participants from 12 Latin American and Caribbean economies, and the country's status as a host for regional courses under the multi-venue agreement.

## **II. President's summary**

### **A. Opening plenary meeting and general debate**

#### **Opening plenary meeting**

13. Recalling his experience at the Trade and Development Board, the outgoing President (Lebanon) of the Board noted that, for many, phase II of the implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano, the revitalization of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, had fallen short of aspirations and left many challenges unaddressed. The door was open, though, for further efforts to continue at an appropriate time and in a positive spirit. The midterm review of the fourteenth session of the Conference had highlighted the importance of maintaining the outcome on track. In the regular work of the intergovernmental machinery, while secretariat contributions could have been timelier, delegates could have been more expeditious in arriving at consensus and more constructive in dealing with the secretariat and with each other.

14. As President, he had focused on diplomacy by fostering a spirit of decorum and professionalism. As the next quadrennial conference approached, he hoped delegates would prevent unnecessary friction and misunderstandings by acting with tact and pragmatism. While the effects of the global financial and economic crisis had not been fully addressed at the thirteenth session of the Conference, he was confident that the fifteenth session of the Conference could be historic, addressing crucial issues such as setbacks in multilateralism, including in the international trading system, and make a meaningful contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and fighting poverty, to deliver prosperity for all.

15. He noted that the current controversy over the request of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network to assess the work of UNCTAD bore disturbing similarities with the circumstances leading up to the thirteenth session of the Conference. In his consultations, he had found sincerity in the good intentions of all and a commitment to engage constructively in addressing concerns. Yet, there was a lack of appreciation of the history and the deep concerns many held. He thus encouraged all to remain consistent with the Conference's rules of procedure. The situation underscored the need for ambassadors and UNCTAD senior management, with a more politically sensitive approach, to be more engaged in the work of the intergovernmental machinery and work together to provide constructive guidance to negotiators for a successful fifteenth session of the Conference.

16. For the future, he suggested focusing on substantive issues, at the ministerial level and beyond, to avoid squandering the opportunity of the next quadrennial conference, as one of the major United Nations conferences on development; doing better, as secretariat and member States, as UNCTAD encompassed both, which meant the secretariat should produce on time while member States should reach agreements on time; and remembering that, in representing humanity as a whole, they had to do their best to succeed.

17. The incoming President (Ireland) of the Board encouraged all delegates to engage actively in discussions to generate ideas and take-aways that could further drive the work of the session and inspire preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference. The Conference would take place only five years after the adoption of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable

Development Goals, and one third of the way along the pathway to 2030. It was clear that achievement of the Goals required accelerating progress.

18. UNCTAD and the broader United Nations system had not fully evolved to adequately meet contemporary realities. The fifteenth session of the Conference was an opportunity to redress the matter, by building on the achievement of Nairobi, where stakeholders went from decisions to actions, and move decisively from actions to results. To succeed, the focus should be on building true consensus on key trade and development issues, particularly difficult ones, to arrive eventually at tangible outcomes. The world had changed, with a universal development agenda that placed obligations on all States and recognized that all of humanity must benefit from the Sustainable Development Goals. That required taking on those responsibilities, by building bridges and engaging with each other with a new sense of community. The 2030 Agenda was for all people and the shared planet, as young people clearly recognized.

19. Thus, with delegates' support, the President of the Board would emphasize building trust and confidence across all lines and groups, taking as his point of departure the assumption that everyone was committed to UNCTAD and its mission and acting in good faith. He appealed to the Board to act with due courtesy and professionalism to minimize the potential for unintended and unnecessary misunderstandings or miscommunications. As President, he intended to foster a calm and deliberative spirit of thoughtful and constructive engagement, to forge meaningful consensus on key issues. To that end, he would meet regularly with the membership to maintain the dialogue and exchange of ideas on the Board's regular work and preparations for fifteenth session of the Conference, beginning with the traditional breakfast meetings between the President and the various groups, then convene smaller brainstorming meetings.

20. Substance should dominate at the fifteenth session of the Conference. Dialogue should begin on whether specific agreements on revitalizing the intergovernmental machinery were possible, to avoid agreeing on a highly substantive outcome document without the intergovernmental machinery to turn it into action. Close collaboration with New York and the broader United Nations system was needed to ensure that the results of efforts would permeate the development community, catalysing action where required.

21. In closing, diplomacy and multilateralism were based on strongly held principles, upheld by qualities that defined a specific community. Delegates needed the imagination to break through persistent, outdated paradigms and to define realistic solutions to deliver on the shared aspiration of prosperity for all; courage to take hard decisions, make compromises and trust each other; and the commitment to exercise the political will to translate decisions into actions, and actions into results. That was the purpose of multilateralism, which delegates could act on by remembering that multilateralism was not fundamentally about process, rather, its processes had been invented to deliver results, and by recognizing the reality that they depended on and had obligations to each other.

22. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD expressed his appreciation to the outgoing President of the Board for his dedication, particularly in working to achieve consensus even on sensitive issues. In welcoming the incoming President of the Board, he expressed the secretariat's commitment to work with him in the difficult year ahead. In preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference, facilitating the work of the Panel of Eminent Persons, breakfast consultations between the President and regional groups, support to the preparations of regional group position papers and the draft outcome document, in the form of the report of the

Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the Conference, would all require significant consensus-building and good will in the work of the President and member States.

23. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD noted that the primary focus of the session was inequality as a barrier to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, an appropriate topic coming a few weeks before the high-level political forum of the Economic and Social Council that would address inclusiveness and inequality and only two weeks after the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, at which inequality featured as a theme. Therefore, the high-level segment focused on four perspectives on inequality: means of implementation for reducing inequality, linkages between trade and inequality, the widening digital divide facing developing countries and how South-South cooperation could address growing inequalities among developing countries.

24. Currently, the world was further behind on trade and development issues and the promise of inclusivity than since the triple promise of 2015. Among the challenges were a sense of rising international tensions over trade and technology, a steady decline in growth in foreign direct investment flows globally, compounded by the severe implications for vulnerable and emerging economies of shortening and rerouting of production networks and global value chains, and mounting concerns over external debt burdens in developing countries. He noted that UNCTAD would seek to address those challenges jointly.

25. There was some positive news for multilateralism. UNCTAD work on promoting regional and South-South cooperation had seen increased momentum, with specific steps taken in work with the African Union on the African Continental Free Trade Area. In advancing digital transformation, electronic (e-commerce) weeks had been undertaken in Nairobi in 2018 and Geneva in 2019, and there was growing attention to UNCTAD work on the eTrade for all initiative and the net entrepreneurs training programme for Asia and Africa. Also, eTrade readiness assessments had been completed in 13 countries, 13 studies were under way and many countries, including non-least developed countries, were interested in the programme.

26. Across the wider United Nations family and within the UNCTAD secretariat, in the context of United Nations reform, new ways of working were also being adopted, including for a new system-wide strategy, management and accountability issues and the role of non-resident agencies, which was particularly important for UNCTAD in engagements with others. UNCTAD had collaborated closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme at the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, the United Nations network of economists and United Nations Group of 20 working group.

27. In technical cooperation, positive areas included the growing significance of developing countries in funding UNCTAD extrabudgetary resources. Currently, 50 per cent of those resources were coming from developing and emerging economies. There was growing interest in some UNCTAD products, such as the European Union-funded joint programme for Angola, with many countries around the world seeking a similar model of comprehensive engagement. Also, UNCTAD had recently received US\$5.3 million from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for expansion of the Automated System for Customs Data programme to cover Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands and Niue, thus reaching 103 members.

28. Interdivisional engagement within UNCTAD continued, with work on statistics, financing for development, gender and South-South cooperation, which had been helpful for learning and delivering a clear product to the rest of the world. Interdivisional cooperation had added significant value in the UNCTAD contribution and leadership at the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South

Cooperation, the BAPA+40 Conference, in Argentina, and the post-Conference work assigned to UNCTAD going forward.

29. Being well equipped would enable UNCTAD to navigate the fast-changing trade and development landscape. More engagement with member States would be required, as UNCTAD assessed missed opportunities and compensated for declining investment in Sustainable Development Goal-related sectors, as well as more support for initiatives, particularly extrabudgetary resources, at a time of substantial declines in the United Nations regular budget. For example, for 2020, the UNCTAD regular budget had been reduced by \$633,000, representing the loss of five permanent posts. That impeded growth in new areas of interest to member States, but also held back implementation, for example, of the Nairobi decision on strengthening work with the Palestinian people. The cooperation of member States, particularly support in extrabudgetary resource activities, should thus continue and grow in the areas considered important for enhanced activity.

30. Currently, more than 70 per cent of UNCTAD staff had received training on results-based management, which would facilitate implementation of the commitments made. Regarding two recent audit reports from the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Secretary-General was committed to implementing the recommendations made, as assessments were a tool for strengthened performance and delivery.

31. He reiterated the secretariat's readiness to work with member States in the lead-up to the fifteenth session of the Conference and to deliver as much as possible of the promise of Nairobi.

### **General debate**

(Agenda item 3)

32. The general debate took place on 26 June 2019. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Panama, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of Togo, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Canada, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of Oman, on behalf of the Arab Group; the representative of Iraq; the representative of Cuba; the representative of Zambia; the representative of the Russian Federation; the representative of Nigeria; the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the representative of Indonesia; the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; the representative of China; the representative of the State of Palestine; the representative of Peru; the representative of India; the representative of Nepal; the representative of Kenya; the representative of Uganda; the representative of Jamaica; the representative of South Africa; the representative of the Republic of Korea; the representative of Georgia; the representative of Brazil; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the representative of Jordan; the representative of the Philippines; the representative of Zimbabwe; the representative of Ethiopia; and the representative of Morocco.

33. Most delegations considered multilateral cooperation as crucial for reducing inequalities. The representative of one regional group expressed support for multilateralism and concern about the growing number of unilateral and protectionist measures, decrease in official development assistance and global rise in illicit financial flows. She called on UNCTAD to support countries in adopting trade policies that promoted economic transformation, as digitalization and automation became a crucial economic challenge in the twenty-first century.

34. The representative of another regional group highlighted the power of the digital revolution in transforming the lives of millions of people and reducing inequalities within and between countries. UNCTAD should improve internal governance, transparency and accountability to ensure maximum efficiency. UNCTAD should revitalize its role within the United Nations system, as the focal point for integrating sustainable development into the international trading system.
35. The representative of another regional group noted the importance of public financial management in reducing the inequality. Tackling illicit financial flows was a key challenge and some solutions could be seen in strengthening multilateralism and constructive exchanges of data flows.
36. The representative of another regional group stated that the technological divide might widen inequalities. The regional group also requested that the secretariat work on eliminating geographic and gender imbalances in employment within UNCTAD.
37. One regional group said that the African Continental Free Trade Area was an example of constructive regional and South-South cooperation between the States. Nonetheless, regional and other South-South agreements could be successful only if fully implemented. Quality data and policy recommendations would be needed, and UNCTAD needed to play a central role in the matter.
38. Another regional group said that balanced and objective discussions on inequality, within the Board and UNCTAD, should be a priority. The regional group had requested UNCTAD to focus on eliminating management challenges and improving regular communication with member States.
39. Another regional group expressed concern that the decrease in the UNCTAD budget would harm progress in achieving the goals of the Nairobi Maafikiano agreed by member States, including support to the State of Palestine.
40. Some delegates urged the international community to stop unilateral sanctions, which had significantly increased inequalities in their countries. Another delegate underscored that international cooperation should be based on the rights of sovereign States.
41. Many delegates mentioned the issue of climate change as creating inequalities. Many other delegates called for more technical assistance projects to improve the readiness of countries for the digital revolution. Several delegates raised the issues of fair intellectual property exchanges and consumer protection regulations, while some other delegates focused on the question of tax evasion in creating inequalities and called for the creation of a first global forum on tax matters.

## **B. High-level segment**

42. The high-level segment of the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board took place on 24 and 25 June 2019.

### **1. Means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10** (Agenda item 2 (a))

43. Opening the discussion, the President of the Board, some panellists and many delegations highlighted the importance of addressing global inequality to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Inequality was generally appreciated as a good topic. One panellist and one delegate said that inequality was not only a structural issue, with links to poverty, climate change and tax regulation, but was also a cross-cutting concern reaching beyond Sustainable Development Goal 10.

44. One panellist and some delegates attributed growing inequalities to globalization and technological differences among countries, while another delegate stated that the setbacks to multilateralism in the current global political climate had resulted in the imposition of sanctions on member States, which further deepened inequalities among countries.

45. Several panellists and delegations referred to calls to revamp the international trade and tax architecture in relation to addressing problems of inequality and poverty. One panellist said that the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and associated intellectual property and patent rights should be reworked. Another panellist stated that tax incentives for foreign investment had failed to translate into growth.

46. Noting that data showed inequality between countries had decreased, while inequality within countries had worsened, some delegations suggested good governance, attracting foreign direct investment while ensuring fair treatment of domestic firms and increased economic participation by women could reduce intra-country inequality.

47. One delegate said the importance of domestic resource mobilization in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was recognized. However, sovereign States should be able to articulate concerns in exercising their sovereignty over international flows. In that context, one delegation noted that a focus on domestic resource mobilization without looking at international flows and the governing tax regime was counterproductive. Many delegations said that illicit financial flows greatly undermined social and infrastructure spending in developing countries, and some delegations noted, in that context, that both asset recovery and tax reform should be a focus of UNCTAD work. However, some delegations indicated that illicit financial flows had little to do with Sustainable Development Goal 10 or the core mandate of UNCTAD.

48. Several delegations and one panellist said there was support for international tax reform and for developing countries to be included in decision-making. Some participants said that UNCTAD was an ideal forum to discuss tax rights given its mandate on trade and investment.

## **2. Trade policies and their impact on inequalities** (Agenda item 2 (b))

49. During the discussion, the panellists stated that trade reforms, as part of globalization, had contributed to the decline in income inequality between countries, while since the 1990s within country inequality had widened in some parts of the world. They discussed the interplay of factors, such as trade, technology and finance, that led to changes in income distribution. While rapid growth in some emerging economies improved the income levels of the poorest 50 per cent of the world population, the middle class in developed countries faced stagnant or declining incomes and the prosperity of the richest 10 per cent, especially the top 1 per cent, of the population increased, deteriorating global income distribution. The rise in within-country inequality had paved the way for the current backlash against international trade and multilateralism, as manifested in issues such as the decision by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to leave the European Union, trade tensions and deviation from the established multilateral trading system.

50. One panellist said that Western European countries counteracted rising inequality through tax and investment policies. Free trade agreements had concomitantly created a giant tax-free zone, where multinational corporations abused tax optimization. Consequently, trade agreements should encompass fiscal, social and environmental aspects, including effective exchange of financial information of

individuals and corporations between parties and establishment of a minimum corporate, income or wealth tax rate to avoid dumping.

51. One delegation emphasized that South-South cooperation on trade matters did not replace a North-South cooperation. Another delegation underscored that the drop in inequality was losing steam, and in developing countries it had become increasingly difficult for microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises to close the gap with multinational corporations from the North. The delegation encouraged UNCTAD to continue to develop online trade portals in order to provide information to such enterprises in the South. Another delegation highlighted trade as a tool to create added value and jobs in developing countries. Trade policy should focus on how to create added value by fostering the use of technology, to climb up the value chain, and a highly skilled work force. By doing so, an economy would be able to create forward and backward linkages. Another delegation recognized that trade was a catalyst for economic growth and development. However, preconditions needed to be established, primarily a streamlined bureaucracy and enhanced education opportunities.

52. Many delegates and panellists explained that to reduce inequality, the crisis of the multilateral trading system should be solved. To that end, UNCTAD should take a leading role in the reform of the World Trade Organization, strengthening of the multilateral trading system and encouraging countries to accede to the World Trade Organization. Inequality also resulted from unilateral economic sanctions, which were illegitimate and violated international rules. Rather, international cooperation needed strengthening and trade should not be used for power politics. One panellist also emphasized an approach to trade policy that supported equity and inclusiveness for those marginalized from the international trading system, especially economically weaker countries, microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises and workers, including women and youth. Enhancing trade facilitation measures, access to digital platforms and robust anti-competitive measures would strengthen the participation of such enterprises in global trade.

### **3. Digital development: Opportunities and challenges** (Agenda item 2 (c))

53. The representatives of several regional groups and several delegates recognized the rapid spread of digital technologies and their potential economic and social impacts, acknowledging that digitalization brought opportunities and challenges. Some opportunities were economic growth and poverty reduction, job creation, productivity increase, trade and development opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises and disadvantaged groups, including women and youth. Several regional groups and many delegates drew attention to other concerns, such as the digital divide and increasing inequality within and between countries, data ownership, localization and protection, market control by a few global platforms, privacy and cybersecurity, customs revenues and job losses.

54. Some regional groups and delegates discussed key policy areas, such as affordable access to the Internet, promotion of local content, education and skills development, support for small and medium-sized enterprises and promotion of opportunities for women and youth. Many delegations noted the need to create a transparent regulatory framework, particularly with regard to data ownership, competition, trade, taxation and privacy and consumer protection. Several delegations said that, given the different policy areas and stakeholders involved, an inclusive and well-coordinated process was required, leading to a national digital strategy with high-level political commitment. Some delegates stressed the importance of international cooperation and multilateral action in support of a fair distribution of benefits in the digital economy.

55. Many delegations expressed their support for UNCTAD work on digital development, namely E-commerce Week, rapid eTrade readiness assessments, the eTrade for all and eTrade for Women initiatives, the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy and information and communications technology policy reviews. Regarding the Nairobi Maafikiano mandate, one regional group and many delegates encouraged the secretariat to expand work on research and policy analysis, technical assistance and international consensus-building. Some delegations also requested a dedicated briefing on the number and status of requests for assistance submitted. Acknowledging the needs of member States, the secretariat stressed the importance of securing additional financial support to be able to expand on activities and fulfil its mandate.

**4. South-South cooperation for trade, investment and structural transformation**  
(Agenda item 2 (d))

56. During the discussion on the role that South-South cooperation could play in supporting structural transformation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the moderator, one panellist and some delegations said that the BAPA+40 Conference, held in Buenos Aires in March 2019, was an important landmark, at which clear commitments were made on how best to take South-South cooperation forward. Some panellists and several delegations pointed out that, between the first High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in 1978 and the BAPA+40 Conference, enormous progress in South-South cooperation had been made, especially in South-South trade (with annual growth of 13 per cent between 1995 and 2016), though much of it was in the East Asia region, linked to global and regional value chains. Other areas of significant progress included South-South investment flows, especially foreign direct investment, and extensive exchanges of ideas and experiences between partner countries. Many delegations and one panellist emphasized that South-South cooperation was based firmly on the core principles of solidarity, mutual respect and non-interference, and that should remain the case in the future. South-South cooperation should be seen as a complement to North-South cooperation, not a substitute for it.

57. Panellists noted that, despite noteworthy progress, South-South cooperation faced significant challenges ahead, including the need to address growing inequality, the digital divide, climate change and the need for more knowledge and technology sharing so that Southern countries could achieve structural transformation. One panellist and one delegation also stressed the current financing gap in investment needed to support the Sustainable Development Goals. They noted the role that South-South investment flows could play in helping to close the gap. Another delegation emphasized that further progress, particularly through value chains, could help tackle those issues and empower women, create jobs and respect human rights.

58. One panellist noted that initiatives in South-South cooperation varied at the level of regional groupings and their individual countries. She highlighted the Eurasian Economic Union experience, emphasizing the Union's potential for development opportunities in areas such as industry, infrastructure and logistics with living standards expected to rise. However, challenges existed, including the low share of mutual trade in total trade, at 13.5 per cent, lack of foreign investments, prevalence of the extractive sector, low share of the services sector in gross domestic product and macroeconomic volatility. The charted road ahead included establishment of a single market, common regulations across countries and elimination of internal barriers within the Union. One delegate noted that, in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, promotion of partnerships, connectivity and digital integration had taken place. At the country level, another panellist noted that Morocco currently had Moroccan banks with a strong presence in many African countries,

investing significantly in Africa and, thus, in 2016 was the third largest capital investor in the region. However, the quality, not only quantity, of investments mattered in maximizing development outcomes. Another delegate also stated that Brazil had helped address inequality through South-South cooperation in health, education and social policies.

59. Some panellists and many delegations emphasized the role UNCTAD had and could continue to have in supporting South-South cooperation initiatives. Initiatives included supporting the sharing of experiences among different South-South cooperation groupings, the work on a code of conduct for technology transfer, supporting new funding mechanisms to stimulate value chain corridors and hubs and helping to promote the Belt and Road Initiative. They emphasized the need for South-South cooperation to support the UNCTAD 10-point digital agenda for the promotion of digital development in developing countries.

### C. Regular segment

60. The regular segment of the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board took place on 26 and 27 June 2019.

#### 1. Annual report of the Secretary-General (Agenda item 4)

61. The representative of one regional group noted that the new approach to the report lacked technical depth in certain areas. He called for reducing geographic and gender employment disparities at the secretariat. He also expressed concern with lack of political visibility of UNCTAD work. Specifically, in the BAPA+40 outcome document UNCTAD was not mentioned, and discussions at the Economic and Social Council had often not included UNCTAD as an important partner. To improve that political visibility, better integration of the UNCTAD New York Office in the United Nations system was needed.

62. Another regional group thanked the secretariat for including the budget overview in the annual report but regretted that the item was merged with the opening statement, as it would help to discuss the annual report in a more structured way. UNCTAD should carefully follow United Nations reform, continuously adapt and develop strategies that would define its role in the twenty-first century. The fifteenth session of the Conference needed to be a central event that would help to clarify the vision and goals of UNCTAD and address problems of internal accountability and governance.

63. One delegate expressed support for the request to improve geographical and gender balance within the secretariat and underscored the importance of quality research and analysis, particularly in documents such as the *World Investment Report*, which were of crucial importance for many developing States.

64. In response, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD said, on internal accountability, that UNCTAD was regularly subject to external and internal audits and reviews and assessments by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Evaluation and Monitoring Unit. He had designated a special work force on implementing the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. He also affirmed his dedication to strong transparency standards; UNCTAD expenditures and revenues could be readily examined online.

65. The Secretary-General acknowledged the problem of gender and geographic imbalances in staff employment but noted that the matter was not easily resolved, particularly in times of agreed budget cuts. The Nairobi Maafikiano obliged

UNCTAD to fully support the Palestinian people, and he warned that full support was increasingly difficult with the limitation of resources and budgets.

66. With regards to the political visibility of UNCTAD, he explained that no mention of UNCTAD was made in the outcome document of the BAPA+40 Conference as there was a prior agreement among United Nations system entities to appear in the document jointly under the name of the United Nations.

**2. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**  
(Agenda item 5)

67. The Chair of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy presented the report to the Board.

68. The representatives of several regional groups and many delegates welcomed the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts and the work of the UNCTAD secretariat in organizing the session. There was wide agreement on the importance of the value and role of data in e-commerce and the digital economy, the implications for trade and development, and the need to continue working on those subjects.

69. Though several delegates regretted the lack of agreement on the policy recommendations, there was broad consensus among delegates that that reflected the complexity and politically sensitive nature of the issues addressed. Delegates agreed broadly that the meeting had provided value by contributing to increased understanding on data-related issues and the different positions and views. While several delegations suggested the possibility of revisiting the requirement to reach agreed policy recommendations, many other delegations and the Chair of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy emphasized that the difficulties in reaching consensus should not be linked to the working methods of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, but rather to the nature of the issues discussed. One delegate stressed the importance of extending the mandate of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts beyond the fifteenth session of the Conference, as it was the only venue at the United Nations for discussing e-commerce and the digital economy from a developmental perspective.

**3. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020**  
(Agenda item 6)

70. The representatives of many regional groups noted with concern that, despite some progress, most least developed countries remained unlikely to meet the goals and targets set in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), all the more so in light of lingering international tensions and a weakening global economy. Reaffirming the pivotal role of productive capacity development and structural transformation, they reiterated that support to the least developed countries should be given adequate priority, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several regional groups emphasized persistent commodity dependence, worsening debt vulnerabilities and daunting challenges in mobilizing financing for sustainable development of those countries.

71. Many delegations praised UNCTAD work on the least developed countries, notably through research and policy analysis as well as technical assistance. They highlighted specifically evidence-based work of the annual The Least Developed Countries Reports and work on debt, trade facilitation and e-trade readiness assessments. Several delegations called on donors to increase their financial backing of UNCTAD work on the least developed countries, especially through contributions

to the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries, given the continuous and increasing demand for assistance. Some delegations mentioned the key UNCTAD contribution of fostering informed preparation for and participation in the forthcoming fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Some delegates provided country examples of the relevance of UNCTAD work on least developed country graduation issues.

72. Recognizing the UNCTAD contribution to implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the preparatory process of the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the representative of one regional group and one delegate called on the UNCTAD New York Office to lead in adequately positioning UNCTAD work within the United Nations system, enhancing its political visibility. Some delegates also called for renewed efforts to fully exploit the synergies between analytical work and concrete technical assistance projects, tackling development challenges holistically. One delegation proposed discussing The Least Developed Countries Report together with implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, while another delegation called on UNCTAD to play a greater role in in-depth analysis of current trade negotiation issues.

**4. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields**

(Agenda item 8)

73. The UNCTAD secretariat presented the new UNCTAD Statistics Quality Assurance Framework, which would ensure that UNCTAD produced and disseminated institutional, output and statistical processes in accordance with the principles governing international statistical activities. A novel feature of the framework was the self-assessment tool for regular review and development of UNCTAD statistics. The representatives of several regional groups and some delegates commended UNCTAD for the pioneering work in introducing the first bespoke framework and underlined the importance of coordinated implementation across UNCTAD.

74. The delegations emphasized the critical role of UNCTAD statistics in quantifying achievements and identifying gaps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Statistics were a central component of the UNCTAD contribution to the United Nations system. Several delegations encouraged UNCTAD to continue to provide high quality, independent statistics to inform research, debate and decision-making, noting the vital role of UNCTAD statistics in support of policymaking in developing countries. They cited as examples the UNCTAD statistics contribution to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the analysis of inclusive growth in Eurasia.

75. One delegation called for stocktaking and discussion of strategic UNCTAD contributions to and role in the United Nations system, in the context of the 2030 Agenda and United Nations reform; such a document should be made available on the webpage of the Board.

76. The UNCTAD secretariat noted the newly released UNCTAD Sustainable Development Goal Pulse as a point of departure for quantifying progress towards achievement of the Goals and systematically presenting outcomes of UNCTAD work on the interrelated issues of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. The secretariat invited member States to make suggestions for future inclusion of projects and issues in the online publication.

77. Some delegations underscored the importance of UNCTAD technical and analytical work, particularly on illicit financial flows, and requested the secretariat to brief member States on progress and results in those areas.

78. Some delegations called for joint efforts of member States and the secretariat to significantly increase the visibility of UNCTAD technical, analytical and policy work in the United Nations system and major United Nations conferences, such as the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation when pertinent trade and development issues were discussed, particularly regional and South-South cooperation, the least developed countries and industrialization. One delegation proposed that the UNCTAD New York Office lead in promoting UNCTAD contributions within the United Nations system. UNCTAD should take an active role at the Commission of Science and Technology for Development and at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as UNCTAD contributed directly to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

### **III. Procedural and related matters**

#### **A. Opening of the session**

79. The sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 24 June 2019, by Mr. Salim Baddoura (Lebanon), outgoing President of the Board at its sixty-fifth session.

#### **B. Election of officers**

(Agenda item 1 (a))

80. At its 1181st (opening) plenary meeting, on 24 June 2019, the Board elected Mr. Michael Gaffey (Ireland) President of the Board at its sixty-sixth session.

81. The Board undertook the election of officers to serve on the Bureau of the Board at its sixty-sixth session by electing the Vice-Presidents during the 1181st (opening) plenary meeting. Pending nominations would be addressed afterwards. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

*President:* Mr. Michael Gaffey (Ireland)

*Vice-Presidents:* Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren (Mongolia)  
Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai (Nepal)  
Mr. Chad Blackman (Barbados)  
Mr. Juteau Deadjufo Tousse (Cameroon)  
Mr. Hans-Peter Jugel (Germany)  
Mr. Sheldon Barnes (Jamaica)  
Ms. Oxana Domenti (Republic of Moldova)  
Mr. Sergey Ivanov (Russian Federation)

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Tunde M. Mustapha (Nigeria)

82. Following the established practice, the Board agreed that the coordinators of regional groups and other recognized groups of UNCTAD would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Board.

**C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session**  
(Agenda item 1 (b))

83. At its 1181st (opening) plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document [TD/B/66/1](#) (see annex II).

**D. Adoption of the report on credentials**  
(Agenda item 1 (c))

84. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board adopted the report on the credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-sixth session of the Board, as contained in document [TD/B/66/L.1](#).

**E. Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board**  
(Agenda item 1 (d))

85. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board requested that the extended Bureau should be seized with the issue of the provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board, with a view its approval at the sixty-ninth executive session of the Board in early 2020.

**F. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters**  
(Agenda item 9)

**Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2018–2019 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

86. At its 1188th plenary meeting, the Board elected members of the Advisory Body for a period of one year, from June 2019 to June 2020, as follows: Mr. Esmacil Baghaei Hamaneh (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mr. Abdullah Al-Rahbi (Oman); Mr. Tahir Hussain Andrabi (Pakistan); Mr. Diego Aulestia Valencia (Ecuador); Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosa Cuesta (Cuba); Mr. Alaa Youssef (Egypt); Mr. Cleopa K. Mailu (Kenya); Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda); and Soraya Zanardo (Belgium).

87. The President of the Board expressed the expectation that regional coordinators could provide the names of the five pending nominations in the near future.

88. The Board also agreed that the President of the Board would chair the Advisory Body for the same period.

**Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

89. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> A list of the 115 intergovernmental bodies currently in status with UNCTAD is contained in document [TD/B/GO/LIST/11](#).

**Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

90. At its 1181st plenary meeting, the Board approved two new applications, one from the Shipyards and Maritime Equipment Association of Europe ([TD/B/66/R.1](#)) and one from the Latin American Steel Association ([TD/B/66/R.2](#)), to be granted observer status with UNCTAD under the general category.<sup>3</sup>

**Review of the calendar of meetings**

91. At its 1188th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board approved the calendar of meetings for 2020, as contained in a non-paper dated 26 June 2019.<sup>4</sup>

**Membership of the Working Party**

92. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board approved the membership of the Working Party as follows: China, Ecuador, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Malawi, Russian Federation, United Republic of Tanzania and Vanuatu.

93. The President of the Board also noted that there were 11 nominations pending from four regional groups.

**Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)**

94. Also at the 1188th closing plenary meeting, the President of the Board informed the Board that Turkmenistan had communicated to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD the country's intention to become a member of the Board and welcomed Turkmenistan on behalf of the Board. The membership list would be updated accordingly.<sup>5</sup>

**Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

95. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board was informed that the actions taken at its sixty-sixth session had no additional financial implications.

**G. Provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

(Agenda item 10)

96. At its closing plenary meeting, the President informed the Board that the provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth executive session would be reviewed by the extended Bureau with a view of approving it at the sixty-eighth executive session of the Board, to be held from 30 September to 4 October 2019.

**H. Other business**

(Agenda item 11)

97. At the 1188th (closing) plenary meeting of the Trade and Development Board, the President presented three issues for consideration.

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<sup>3</sup> The updated list will be issued as document [TD/B/NGO/LIST/25](#).

<sup>4</sup> The official calendar will be issued as document [TD/B/INF.244](#).

<sup>5</sup> The updated membership list will be issued as document [TD/B/INF.245](#).

98. The Board approved the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the Trade and Development Commission, as contained in a non-paper dated 7 June 2019 made available in the room (see annex III).

99. The Board approved the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, as contained in a non-paper dated 7 June 2019 made available in the room (annex IV).

100. The Board also approved the revised provisional agenda for its sixty-eighth executive session, as contained in a non-paper dated 24 June 2019 made available in the room (annex V).

101. Also at the closing plenary meeting, the representative of one regional group recalled that, at the opening plenary meeting, he had requested an agenda item on governance, accountability and transparency. The agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Board had been adopted, with the understanding that the matter would be discussed at meetings of the Bureau. The President had also proposed to hold informal discussions on the request, but the representative noted that there was little interest on the part of other regional groups to discuss the issue. The President of the Board confirmed that there had been rather extensive discussions in the extended Bureau on the issue, and the outcome was that, as President, he had committed to begin consultations, under my authority, on management oversight issues as soon as possible and to take advantage of the good faith shown in discussions and consultations by all delegates and delegations. He expected to act on that commitment as soon as possible.

102. The representative of one intergovernmental organization noted that his understanding was that discussions would focus on whether to include an agenda item on management in Board discussions or not, while one delegate expressed interest in extending formal consultations to matters that other delegations wanted to consider. The President of the Board clarified that he had committed to begin consultations on management oversight issues and agreed that there was an opportunity at hand and looked forward to moving forward on the proposal in good faith.

## **I. Adoption of the report**

(Agenda item 12)

103. At the 1188th closing plenary meeting of the Trade and Development Board, the President of the Board noted that the session of the Board was too short to produce a draft report and, thus, the practice used for executive sessions would be applied. Therefore, the report would contain a President's summary, the decisions that had been adopted, the actions and other decisions taken by the Board and the provisional agendas approved under item 11 (Other business), as well as reflect the proceedings of the closing plenary meeting and include procedural and related matters.

104. The Board approved the report and authorized the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to finalize the report to the General Assembly as appropriate, taking into account the proceedings of the closing plenary meeting.

## Annex I

### **Draft decision for the consideration of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its seventy-fourth session**

#### **Venue of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2020**

The General Assembly,

*Recognizing* the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the World Investment Forum and an electronic commerce week for Asia,

*Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-sixth session, which was held in Geneva from 24 to 27 June 2019, and its decision contained therein, and welcomes the generous offer of the Government of Barbados to host the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

## Annex II

### **Agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board**

1. Procedural matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;
  - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials;
  - (d) Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board.
2. High-level segment: Inequality – a drag on reducing poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals:
  - (a) Means to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10;
  - (b) Trade policies and their impact on inequalities;
  - (c) Digital development: Opportunities and challenges;
  - (d) South-South cooperation for trade, investment and structural transformation.
3. General debate.
4. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
5. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
6. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.
7. Fifteenth session of the Conference.
8. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.
9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
  - (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2018–2019 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body;
  - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;
  - (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;
  - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings;
  - (e) Membership of the Working Party;
  - (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX);
  - (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board.

10. Provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth executive session of the Trade and Development Board.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report.

## Annex III

### **Provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the Trade and Development Commission**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Reports of expert meetings:
  - (a) Reports of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings:
    - (i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development;
    - (ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development;
    - (iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation;
    - (iv) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation;
    - (v) Expert Meeting on Promoting Value Addition and Enhancement of Domestic Productive Capacity through Local Economic Empowerment;
  - (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy;
  - (c) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.
4. Trade and vulnerability:
  - (a) Small island developing States: Small countries, big challenges;
  - (b) Commodity dependence: A vulnerable state;
  - (c) Addressing multifaceted vulnerability: Trade and transport facilitation.
5. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars.
6. Other business.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board.

## **Annex IV**

### **Provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Reports of expert meetings:
  - (a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development.
  - (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.
4. Investment and enterprise for development:
  - (a) Geneva ambassadors round table for investing in the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (b) Harnessing the investment framework for sustainable development.
5. Structural transformation, Industry 4.0 and inequality: Challenges for science, technology and innovation policy.
6. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board.

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## Annex V

### **Provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board**

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world.
3. Investment for development.
4. Economic development in Africa: Made in Africa – rules of origin for enhanced intra-African trade.
5. Capturing value in the digital economy.
6. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people.
7. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
8. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget.
9. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
  - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;
  - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.
10. Preparatory process for the fifteenth session of the Conference.
11. Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the report.

## Annex VI

### Attendance\*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Afghanistan	Kenya
Albania	Kyrgyzstan
Algeria	Lebanon
Argentina	Lesotho
Austria	Madagascar
Bahamas	Mexico
Bahrain	Mongolia
Bangladesh	Montenegro
Barbados	Morocco
Belarus	Mozambique
Belgium	Myanmar
Benin	Namibia
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Nepal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nigeria
Brazil	Oman
Brunei Darussalam	Pakistan
Bulgaria	Panama
Burkina Faso	Paraguay
Burundi	Peru
Canada	Philippines
Chile	Poland
China	Portugal
Congo	Qatar
Costa Rica	Republic of Korea
Côte d'Ivoire	Russian Federation
Cuba	Saudi Arabia
Czechia	Senegal

\* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see [TD/B/66/INF.1](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo	Serbia
Djibouti	South Africa
Dominican Republic	Spain
Ecuador	Sri Lanka
Egypt	State of Palestine
El Salvador	Sudan
Estonia	Sweden
Ethiopia	Switzerland
Finland	Thailand
France	Togo
Gabon	Trinidad and Tobago
Gambia	Tunisia
Georgia	Turkey
Germany	Turkmenistan
Guatemala	Uganda
Guyana	Ukraine
Honduras	United Arab Emirates
India	United Republic of Tanzania
Indonesia	United States of America
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Ireland	Yemen
Jamaica	Zambia
Japan	Zimbabwe

2. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Eurasian Economic Commission  
European Union  
Organization of Islamic Cooperation  
South Centre

3. The following United Nations organs, bodies and programmes were represented at the session:

United Nations Development Programme

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
International Telecommunication Union

5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

*General category*

Association Africa 21

Consumer Unity and Trust Society International

International Network for Standardization of Higher Education Degrees

Village Suisse ONG

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