



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Twelfth session

Accra, Ghana

20–25 April 2008

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The substantive agenda item for the twelfth session of the Conference (item 8) and its sub-themes were approved by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-first executive session, 18 to 20 April 2007 (TD/B/EX(41)/3).
2. At its fifty-fourth session (1007th plenary meeting, Tuesday, 2 October 2007), the Trade and Development Board approved the draft provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Conference.
3. The provisional agenda is contained in chapter I of the present document. The annotations have been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the usual practice and are contained in chapter II.
4. With regard to organizational matters, the secretariat will issue an addendum to the present document (TD/414/Add.1).

I. Provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Establishment of sessional bodies
4. Election of vice-presidents and the Rapporteur
5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
6. Adoption of the agenda
7. General debate
8. Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development:
 - (a) Enhancing coherence at all levels for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in global policymaking, including the contribution of regional approaches
 - (b) Key trade and development issues and the new realities in the geography of the world economy
 - (c) Enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development
 - (d) Strengthening UNCTAD: enhancing its development role, impact and institutional effectiveness
9. Other business:
 - (a) Periodic review by the Conference of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
 - (b) Report of the Trade and Development Board to the Conference
 - (c) Financial implications of the actions of the Conference
10. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Inaugural ceremony

5. The inaugural ceremony of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, 20 April 2008, on the premises of the Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana. A detailed programme will be circulated prior to this event.

Item 1. Opening of the Conference

6. The rules of procedure of the Conference are contained in document TD/63/Rev.2.

7. The 270th (opening) plenary meeting of the twelfth session of the Conference will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, 20 April 2008, on the premises of the Accra International Conference Centre.

8. Rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides as follows: "At the opening of each session of the Conference, the head of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Conference has elected a President for the session."

Item 2. Election of the President

9. Rule 17 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides, among other things, that the Conference shall elect a president from among its members.

10. It is customary for the head of the delegation of the host country (Ghana) to be elected as president of the Conference.

Item 3. Establishment of sessional bodies

11. In accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Conference may wish to establish a main committee (Committee of the Whole) to consider and report on the specific substantive items referred to it by the plenary. In line with rule 63, the main committee may set up such subsidiary bodies as may be required to carry out its functions.

12. Pursuant to rule 65 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the main committee shall elect a chair, a vice-chair and a rapporteur. Under rule 17, the Chair of the main committee shall be elected before the election of the vice-presidents of the Conference and, in accordance with rule 22, shall be a member of the Bureau of the Conference.

Item 4. Election of vice-presidents and the Rapporteur

13. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Bureau of the Conference shall consist of 35 members, comprising the President and vice-presidents of the Conference, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and the Rapporteur of the Conference. The Conference will need, therefore, to elect 32 vice-presidents.

14. The Conference may wish to decide that the composition of the Bureau of the Conference should be such as to ensure equitable geographical distribution, i.e. seven members from Africa, seven from Asia, seven from Latin America, nine from Group B, four from Group D, and China. In accordance with past practice, the regional coordinators and chairs of subsidiary bodies should be fully associated with the work of the Bureau.

Item 5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:**(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

15. Rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides as follows: "A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session. It shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the Conference upon the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference."

16. In keeping with past practice, the Conference may wish to decide that the Credentials Committee shall be composed of the same nine States as were members of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its most recent (sixty-second) session.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

17. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference. Rule 13 provides that the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Item 6. Adoption of the agenda

18. As indicated in the introductory note to the present document, the substantive item of the provisional agenda (item 8) and its sub-themes were approved by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-first executive session, 18 to 20 April 2007.

19. Suggestions regarding the organization of work of the Conference will be circulated in an addendum to the present document (TD/414/Add.1).

Item 7. General debate

20. The general debate is expected to open on the afternoon of Monday, 21 April 2008, in Committee Hall II of the Accra International Conference Centre, and to conclude on Thursday, 24 April 2008. Statements will be broadcast on the Internet in accordance with the order in which delegations have been included on the list of speakers. The texts of statements that are remitted to the secretariat will be reproduced and distributed during the Conference in the language version(s) in which they are received by the secretariat. Information on the list of speakers has been provided in a note.

21. In accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, and with guidelines approved by the General Assembly, speakers will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of seven minutes. To this end, delegations might consider making available the full text of their statements and concentrating on salient features during interventions in the general debate.

Item 8. Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development:**(a) Enhancing coherence at all levels for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in global policymaking, including the contribution of regional approaches**

- (b) **Key trade and development issues and the new realities in the geography of the world economy**
- (c) **Enhancing the enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development**
- (d) **Strengthening UNCTAD: enhancing its development role, impact and institutional effectiveness**

22. Under this item, the Conference is expected to have before it a pre-conference text prepared by the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII, which was established by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-fourth session in October 2007 and chaired by the President of the Board. The text will be transmitted to the Conference by the Board meeting in special session, after its finalization by the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII in Geneva.

23. The Conference will also have before it the submission of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (TD/413), as well as any other submissions to it by member States or groups of member States. More detailed information on documentation will be provided at a later stage.

Item 9. Other business:

- (a) **Periodic review by the Conference of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)**

24. The membership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and of the Trade and Development Board is listed in document TD/B/INF.209.

25. Paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, states that the lists of States contained in the annex to that resolution “shall be reviewed periodically by the Conference in the light of changes in the membership of the Conference and other factors”. The list was last reviewed by the Conference at its eleventh session in 2004. The Conference will be apprised of any action to be taken.

- (b) **Report of the Trade and Development Board to the Conference**

26. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), the attention of the Conference shall be drawn to the reports of the Trade and Development Board submitted to the General Assembly since the eleventh session of the Conference.

27. The Conference may wish to take note of the reports of the sessions of the Trade and Development Board since the eleventh session of the Conference.

- (c) **Financial implications of the actions of the Conference**

28. Estimates of any financial implications of action proposed by the Conference shall be submitted by the secretariat, if required, in pursuance of rule 32 of the rules of procedure of the Conference.

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

29. In accordance with past practice, the report of the Conference will be submitted to the General Assembly.