



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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## Trade and Development Board

Seventy-first session

Geneva, 16–27 September 2024

Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session**

## Provisional agenda and annotations, revised

### *Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*

The provisional agenda of the seventy-first session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in chapter I below. The UNCTAD secretariat's annotations, contained in chapter II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the items of the provisional agenda, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.



## I. Provisional agenda

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.
2. High-level segment.
3. General debate.
4. Annual report of the Secretary-General.
5. Investment for development: Investment facilitation and digital government.
6. New trade dynamics: Realizing inclusive trade gains.
7. *Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future.*
8. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people.
9. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.
10. UNCTAD strategy for small island developing States.
11. Implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
12. Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
13. Reports of subsidiary bodies:
  - (a) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy;
  - (b) Report of the Trade and Development Commission;
  - (c) Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.
14. 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.
15. Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.
16. Provisional agendas of the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board.
17. 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 2023–2024 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) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX);
  - (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board.

18. Other business.
19. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the seventy-first session of the Trade and Development Board was approved through a silence procedure that concluded on 30 May 2024.

### Item 1

#### Procedural matters:

(a) **Election of officers**

2. The rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board are contained in document TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

3. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur, i.e. four members from list A (Africa/Asia), four from list B, two from list C and two from list D, as referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

4. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the President of the Board for the seventy-first session will be a representative of one of the States in list B and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Africa). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); three from list B; two from list C; and two from list D.

(b) **Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session**

#### *Agenda*

5. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter I above.

#### *Organization of work*

6. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way as to ensure that no two meetings will take place simultaneously. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the available conference resources of the United Nations, particularly in the current changing times. A detailed programme will be made available in due course, which may be adjusted as conditions warrant.

(c) **Adoption of the report on credentials**

7. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

#### *In-session documentation*

### Item 2

#### High-level segment

8. The Trade and Development Board agreed that there would be a high-level segment at the regular session when it approved the draft provisional agenda through the silence procedure that concluded on 30 May 2024. It further agreed that the topic of the high-level segment would be approved through a silence procedure after the conclusion of the sixtieth anniversary of UNCTAD.

### **Item 3**

#### **General debate**

9. The general debate is expected to take place during the first week of the seventy-first session of the Board. The texts of statements that are submitted to the secretariat will be reproduced and uploaded on the UNCTAD website in the language version(s) in which they are received.

10. In accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, speakers may be requested to limit their interventions. Further details on time limits will be provided in due course and in the programme of the Trade and Development Board.

### **Item 4**

#### **Annual report of the Secretary-General**

11. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide highlights to the Board on the activities of UNCTAD, as well as on other issues, as necessary.

### **Item 5**

#### **Investment for development: Investment facilitation and digital government**

12. In a global context of multiple crises, foreign direct investment remains sluggish, which severely hinders implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the least developed countries. This calls for the mobilization of sustainable finance at scale and for urgent action to remove obstacles and provide a transparent, streamlined investment climate for sustainable development.

13. By streamlining procedures, enhancing transparency and leveraging digital tools, such as online single windows, investment facilitation can foster an environment conducive to sustainable investment, particularly in developing countries. But digital investment facilitation should go beyond investment procedures and gradually extend to more services and institutions to capture economies of scale and the scope of digital government tools. This has key strategic implications for digital government implementation as the global push for investment facilitation, if used smartly, beyond the niche of foreign investment specific procedures, can make a real difference in promoting investment for sustainable development.

14. The session will present the analysis, findings and proposals of the *World Investment Report 2024: Investment Facilitation and Digital Government*, which examines the topic in depth. In particular, the report underscores the importance of investment facilitation and digital government as tools to attract and retain investment. It provides insights to policymakers on how to use the profits from digital solutions for business and investment facilitation to develop an effective digital government and promote investment for sustainable development. After the presentation, eminent panellists will present their perspectives on the topic, followed by an open-floor discussion.

15. In addition, the session will provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest foreign direct investment trends and policy developments.

#### *Documentation*

UNCTAD/WIR/2024 and Overview

*World Investment Report 2024: Investment Facilitation and Digital Government*

## **Item 6**

### **New trade dynamics: Realizing inclusive trade gains**

16. Trade is a critical medium for economic growth, but the distribution of gains from trade needs to become more inclusive to help member States regain momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the remaining five years towards 2030. Being more inclusive means that benefits from trade are shared more inclusively, particularly among the most vulnerable communities, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, and across countries. Under the agenda item, member States will share best practices of how combining trade policies with other policy actions can lead to a broader sharing of benefits for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on policy actions such as: industrial policies; domestic transformation of commodities through diversification strategies; services and digital trade to increase gains to women and microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises; competition and consumer protection policies; and non-tariff measures, as interactions between trade and environmental/climate actions.

*In-session documentation*

## **Item 7**

### ***Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future***

17. Under the agenda item, the Board is invited to consider the findings of the UNCTAD *Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future*.

18. Digitalization continues to transform the world economy and society, creating both opportunities and challenges for sustainable development. For the first time, the *Digital Economy Report 2024* turns attention to the environmental footprint of digitalization. It highlights the urgent need for sustainable strategies throughout the life cycle of digitalization. From raw material extraction and usage of digital technologies to waste generation, the report explores the nature and scale of the sector's environmental footprint, which remains largely unassessed. What is apparent is that developing countries are suffering disproportionately from digitalization's negative environmental effects, while many are missing out on economic developmental opportunities due to digital divides. The report calls for global policies involving all stakeholders to enable a more circular digital economy and reduced environmental footprints from digitalization, while ensuring inclusive development outcomes.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/DER/2024 and Overview

*Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future*

## **Item 8**

### **Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people**

19. As in previous years, the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people examines key recent economic developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report assesses the consequences of the Israeli military operation in Gaza and the tightening of restrictions in the West Bank and their impact on socioeconomic conditions throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report highlights the magnitude of the damage inflicted by the military operation in Gaza and the spillover of the conflict into the West Bank, where it wiped out hundreds of thousands of jobs. Furthermore, the report elaborates on the cost of the fiscal crisis, and the threat it poses to the stability of the banking sector.

20. The report updates the Trade and Development Board on recent UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the challenges the secretariat faces in strengthening technical cooperation activities.

*Documentation*

TD/B/71/3                      Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory  
Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

## **Item 9**

### **Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa**

21. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Board will consider a report on UNCTAD activities in support of Africa, which is prepared every year and presented to a session of the Board. The report provides an overview of the research and capacity-building activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa.

*Documentation*

TD/B/71/2                      Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa  
Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

## **Item 10**

### **UNCTAD strategy for small island developing States**

22. Under this agenda item, the Board will consider the Strategy developed by UNCTAD to help small island developing States meet their development goals and tackle global challenges. The strategy aims at maximizing synergies and supporting countries to embrace a paradigm shift in development policy formulation and implementation towards resilience. It is designed to address the overlapping and systemic vulnerabilities facing small island developing States by sustainably harnessing their comparative advantages and unlocking key binding constraints to development. The strategy features 10 broad pillars of support. The approach is aimed at developing new productive capacities and linkages with innovative, and more sophisticated, value added industries. It is designed to help strengthen institutional capacities in small island developing States and train national policymakers to develop policies, programmes and regulatory frameworks to facilitate digital transformation and boost trade and e-commerce, enhance investment, raise fiscal resources and generate customs revenues. Through the implementation of the strategy for small island developing States, UNCTAD intends to equip member States with the innovative tools intended for a stronger domestic economy, one that is attractive to investors and private sector partners.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/ALDC/INF/2024/1                      UNCTAD strategy to support small island developing States

## **Item 11**

### **Implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

23. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide the Board with highlights on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**Item 12****Preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

24. Under the agenda item, the secretariat will bring to the attention of member States for their consideration elements in connection with the preparatory process for the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**Item 13****Reports of subsidiary bodies****(a) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy**

25. The report of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy will be before the Board for its consideration.

**(b) Report of the Trade and Development Commission**

26. The report of the fourteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission will be before the Board for its consideration.

**(c) Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission**

27. The report of the fourteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be before the Board for its consideration.

*Documentation*

TD/B/EDE/7/4	Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy on its seventh session
TD/B/C.I/58	Report of the Trade and Development Commission on its fourteenth session
TD/B/C.II/53	Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission on its fourteenth session

**Item 14****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**

28. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, the General Assembly invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and to the review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

29. In paragraph 5 of the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2), UNCTAD is called upon to “contribute to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among other relevant international agreements and outcomes”.

30. Under the agenda item, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will provide the Board with highlights on the contribution made to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences.



**Item 15****Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre**

31. The Trade and Development Board will consider the report of the fifty-eighth session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

**Item 16****Provisional agendas of the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board**

32. The Trade and Development Board will be invited to consider and approve drafts of the provisional agendas of its seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh executive sessions.

*In-session documentation*

**Item 17****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 2023–2024 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body**

33. In accordance with Trade and Development Board decision 466 (XLVII), the Chair of the Advisory Body will inform the Board on the activities of the Advisory Body and on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2024, based on the recommendations of the regional groups.

- (b) **Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

34. The UNCTAD secretariat has received no applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board. A list of the approved intergovernmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/13.

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

35. The UNCTAD secretariat has received three applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board. The current list of approved non-governmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/29.

*Documentation*

TD/B/71/R.1	Application from the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/71/R.2	Application from the Centre for International Maritime Affairs, Ghana Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/71/R.3	Application from the International Council for Small Business Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

**(d) Review of the calendar of meetings**

36. The Board will have before it a tentative calendar of meetings for 2025.

*In-session documentation*

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

37. The Board will have before it, as appropriate, the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

*Documentation*

TD/B/INF.255                      Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

**(f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board**

38. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

*In-session documentation, if required*

**Item 18**

**Other business**

39. Under the agenda item, the Board will be briefed on the results of the UNCTAD Global Supply Chain Forum 2024, which was held in Barbados from 21 to 24 May 2024.

**Item 19**

**Adoption of the report**

40. The report of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes, as well as other decisions that the Board may decide to adopt.

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