



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission**  
Second session  
Geneva, 26–30 April 2010

### Agreed conclusions<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Agreed conclusions

*The Commission,*

1. Welcomes the *World Investment Report 2009: Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development*, which provides detailed analysis, inter alia, on the issue of investment in agriculture in developing countries.
2. Notes that enhancing administrative efficiency is an important element for business facilitation, as well as for building the necessary infrastructure to achieve the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including through public and private investment.
3. Requests UNCTAD to continue its capacity-building activities to support developing countries in the development of i-portals.
4. Recognizes the relevance of administrative efficiency in facilitating business, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Stresses the need for transparency which contributes to the fight against corruption. Notes that UNCTAD's support in building the technical and managerial capabilities of SMEs through its Empretec programme plays an important role in instilling entrepreneurial skills that enables some SMEs to participate in global value chains, and welcomes the expansion of Empretec to other developing countries, especially LDCs. Appreciates UNCTAD's efforts to support the diffusion of entrepreneurship.
5. Expresses its concern about the impact of the food, financial and economic crises on sustainable development and the uneven progress towards achievement of some of the IADGs, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Stresses the importance of investment in agriculture to ensure food security and sustainable development, emphasizing the need for promoting an enabling and predictable environment conducive to direct investment in agriculture.

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<sup>1</sup> As adopted at the final plenary meeting on 30 April 2010.

6. *Recognizes* that investment in agriculture can contribute to building capacity and to progress towards achievement of some of the IADGs, including some of the MDGs.
7. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat, further to the deliberations of the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-sixth session, and in line with General Assembly resolution 64/192, in cooperation with other relevant institutions, to continue its work on the Principles for Responsible International Investment in Agriculture for Sustainable Development, emphasizing the need for a transparent and inclusive process for developing and considering such principles, which would allow ample input from Governments and all relevant stakeholders.
8. *Underscores* the importance to developing countries of enhancing productive capacities in agriculture and economic diversification, and in this regard requests UNCTAD, within its mandate and within existing resources, to reinforce its assistance to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs), including in the areas of investment and technology.
9. *Calls upon* the UNCTAD secretariat to actively pursue the mandate on investment-related issues given by the Accra Accord so as to help developing countries, in particular LDCs, to build productive capacity in agriculture and to achieve sustained growth and development in order to, inter alia, make greater progress towards accomplishment of the IADGs.

## **II. Agreed conclusions on the outcomes of expert meetings**

10. *Takes note* of the reports of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) on its second session (TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/7); the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration on its second session (TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/6); the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development on its second session (TD/B/C.II/MEM.3/6); the Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development (TD/B/C.I/EM.3/3); and the Expert Meeting on the Contribution and Effective Use of External Resources for Development, in particular for Productive Capacity-building (TD/B/C.II/EM.1/3).

### **A. Multi-year expert meetings**

(Agenda item 3 (a))

*Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at its second session*

11. *Welcomes* the identification of actionable outcomes, including the creation of a set of good practices on entrepreneurship policies and the development of core indicators on entrepreneurship development.
12. *Encourages*, within UNCTAD's available resources, the development of a policymaking tool for entrepreneurship development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, based on policy frameworks and core indicators and taking into account best practices and lessons learned from other relevant intergovernmental institutions and stakeholders.

13. *Encourages* UNCTAD to cooperate with other international, regional and national organizations and other stakeholders to develop relevant STI indicators as a basis for effective policy recommendations; to explore the possibility of developing a common list of STI indicators adapted to the realities of developing countries and to build capacity in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs); to collect and analyze STI data; and to assist policymakers to formulate development-oriented STI policies.

*Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration at its second session*

14. *Considers* that scaling up investment, both public and private, in the agricultural sector is one of the keys to addressing the challenges of food insecurity in developing countries. In pursuit of the same, recognizes the importance of better investment planning, sharing of knowledge and experience, capacity-building, trade facilitation in the agricultural sector, and South–South cooperation. In this regard, encourages UNCTAD to continue its work on promotion of South–South and regional cooperation.

15. *Further considers* that foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture and related industries and services, within the framework of transparency and appropriate regulation, is an important strategic component that can help enhance developing countries' marketing channels, technological know-how and management skills.

*Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development at its second session*

16. *Emphasizes the importance*, inter alia, of promoting an enabling environment for attracting investment in view of the increasing importance of investment as a driver for development, and for the transfer of technology.

17. *Notes* the potential impact of FDI on food security and rural poverty alleviation and supports the development of the set of Principles for Responsible International Investment in Agriculture for Sustainable Development; emphasizes the need for a transparent and inclusive process which allows ample input from Governments and all relevant stakeholders and requests UNCTAD to continue its collaboration with other international organizations to this end in line with General Assembly resolution 64/192 and the Declaration of the World Food Summit in 2009 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

18. *Notes* the potential role of FDI in addressing the effects of climate change on trade and investment in developing countries, and requests UNCTAD, in accordance with its mandate as outlined in Accra Accord paragraph 100, to focus its policy analysis on trade- and investment-related issues.

19. *Notes* the importance of UNCTAD, in collaboration with other organizations with substantial expertise on international investment issues, identifying and addressing the challenges and opportunities for international investment to contribute more effectively to economic development for all countries. In this regard, welcomes the collaboration with other institutions on quarterly reports on measures affecting international investment.

## **B. Single-year expert meetings**

(Agenda item 3 (c))

*Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development*

20. *Encourages* Governments to consider the inclusion of renewable energy technologies (RETs) in national policies and recognizes the important role that trade and investment can play in disseminating RETs.

21. *Requests* UNCTAD, within its mandate and within available resources, in collaboration with other relevant institutions, to analyse best practices in promotion of investment in RETs for sustainable rural development, particularly focusing on incentive structures and strengthening enterprise development.

*Expert Meeting on the Contribution and Effective Use of External Resources for Development, in particular for Productive Capacity-building*

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of an enabling environment that allows FDI to act as a catalyst for development at the domestic and international level, and the role of Governments and other stakeholders in enhancing local productive capacity by promoting more efficient allocation of resources as well as technological and organizational efficiency. Notes that insufficient domestic capacity limits FDI inflows and their impact on development. Further notes the importance of UNCTAD's work on investment, including the Investment Policy Reviews.

23. *Recognizes* that boosting investment and capital accumulation depends on both private capital inflows and domestic resource mobilization, and that external borrowing can play an important role in financing of capital goods imports required for the creation and upgrading of productive capacities, particularly in instances where foreign exchange cannot be generated through exports.

### **C. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting**

(Agenda item 3 (b))

*Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)*

24. *Takes note* of the report of the twenty-sixth session of ISAR as contained in TD/B/C.II/ISAR/54, and of the agreed conclusions therein; and

25. *Approves* the provisional agenda that the Group of Experts has proposed for its twenty-seventh session.