

**Trade and Development Board**  
**Trade and Development Commission**

Tenth session

Geneva, 12–16 November 2018

Item 4 of the agenda

**Trade, multilateral cooperation and sustainable development**

**Agreed conclusions**

*The Trade and Development Commission*

1. *Reiterates* the importance of international trade as a key means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals and stresses the importance of the rules based multilateral trading system;
2. *Stresses* the importance of synergies between UNCTAD, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and the WTO within their respective mandates and resources, with regards to inclusive international trade, in view of achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind;
3. *Welcomes* the presentation of Trade, multilateral cooperation and sustainable development; Note by the UNCTAD secretariat and discussion on recent trends in trade and trade policy, and the participation of developing countries in global trade;
4. *Expresses* concern with the slow progress made in significantly increasing the share of developing countries and least-developed countries in particular in world trade, as stipulated under target 17.11 of the of the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *Welcomes* with appreciation the technical support given by UNCTAD to the establishment of the AfCFTA and encourages UNCTAD to continue its support towards the full achievement of the goals set by this Agreement;
6. *Notes with concern* the rising uncertainties regarding future trade prospects in light of tensions in trade relations among countries and rising protectionism which negatively affect international trade flows, and place the multilateral trading system at risk;
7. *Requests* the UNCTAD secretariat to provide an open space for dialogue with member States and stakeholders, including the private sector, the development dimension of the multilateral trading system in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, obstacles prior to, during, and in the follow-up to the WTO accession process of developing countries, investment facilitation, e-commerce and services, current trade tensions, non-tariff measures including unilateral measures, and new generation regional and bilateral trade agreements;
8. *Calls upon* the UNCTAD secretariat to continue to monitor and report on trade trends and trade policy, including tensions affecting the multilateral trading system, in particular those resulting from unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of

economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, collate and analyse data on the various areas in trade of interest to developing countries, including fair prices and value addition for commodities, strengthening of South-South trade, and on future trade prospects in the light of, inter alia, global value chains, innovation, gender, access to and use of technology;

9. *Further calls upon* the UNCTAD secretariat to continue its analysis of the contribution of international trade to sustainable development in the context of rising inequalities within and between countries;

10. *Commends* the in-depth policy research and analysis conducted by the UNCTAD secretariat on trade and sustainable development and its innovative work on emerging issues, including the gender impact of trade reforms, and encourages the UNCTAD secretariat to continue its work;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the capacity building initiatives carried out by the UNCTAD secretariat in all developing regions on issues such as non-tariff measures, the green and the blue economy, trade and gender, as well as the youth and young people's related aspects of education and empowerment for entrepreneurship promotion, e-commerce readiness promotion, competition law and policy, consumer protection, and voluntary sustainable standards and encourages UNCTAD to continue its work on these areas;

12. *Calls upon* the UNCTAD secretariat to publish a report addressing emerging issues in international trade and their implications for achieving the SDGs, within existing resources, for the next meeting of the Trade and Development Commission for its consideration;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the policy research and analysis, as well as the tools and technical cooperation programmes provided by UNCTAD to support trade facilitation reforms and sustainable and resilient freight transport, including ASYCUDA, the Empowerment for National Trade Facilitation Committees, sustainable and resilient transport Tool Box, and the Port Management Programme, e-Trade for All, Trade Development and Gender Program, and statistics program and encourages UNCTAD to continue its work in building the capacities of developing countries for better implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

14. *Commends* UNCTAD on the 50th anniversary of its Review of Maritime Transport and the comprehensive maritime statistics and maritime country profiles that complement this important publication;

15. *Calls upon* UNCTAD Secretariat to continue its policy-oriented analytical work and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international agreements, including the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, SAMOA Pathway for SIDS, Istanbul Program of Action for LDCs, and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, in the areas of shipping and maritime transport, ports, transport corridors, multimodal and transit transport, trade facilitation, and Customs modernization and also challenges and opportunities of the transit developing countries and countries with economies in transition with regard to trade facilitations within existing resources;

16. *Calls upon* UNCTAD to continue its analytical work in the area of international maritime transport to include the monitoring and analysis of the effects of cooperative arrangements and mergers on freight rates and on the frequency, efficiency, reliability and quality of services;

17. *Encourages* UNCTAD to enhance its monitoring, research and analysis, advisory services and provision of statistics of international trade and transport costs and transport connectivity;

18. *Calls upon* UNCTAD to make efforts to expand its technical cooperation in the areas of transport and trade facilitation, including the Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees, to cover all developing regions.