

Recalling decision 412 (XL) of 29 April 1994 of the Trade and Development Board on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action,²⁸

Taking note of agreed conclusions 413 (XL) of 29 April 1994 of the Trade and Development Board on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,²⁸ which was underpinned, *inter alia*, by *The Least Developed Countries 1993-1994 Report*,²⁹

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the international community to the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and calls upon all Governments, international organizations, multilateral financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all other organizations concerned to take concrete measures to implement fully and effectively the Programme of Action in all areas as a matter of priority;

2. *Stresses* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities by the least developed countries for their economic growth and development, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

3. *Calls upon* the donor countries to fulfil their aid commitments as contained in the Programme of Action on a priority basis and to adjust them upwardly to reflect fully the additional resource requirements of the least developed countries, including those added to the list of least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

4. *Decides*:

(a) To convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, to be preceded by a one-day meeting of senior officials on 25 September 1995. In the event that any Member State offers to host this Meeting, the Trade and Development Board, at its spring session in 1995, would accordingly consider that offer. The Meeting shall carry out the mid-term global review, consider new measures as necessary, and report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) To convene one session of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with representatives of the least developed countries in early 1995 in Geneva, for a duration of one week, in order to prepare for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting;

(c) To organize regional follow-up meetings by the relevant United Nations regional commissions, in close coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to improve and strengthen existing cooperation arrangements at the regional and subregional levels and provide appropriate inputs to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting;

(d) To invite the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields on the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(e) To request that an inter-agency meeting be convened in early 1995 to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as part of the preparations for the mid-term global review;

5. *Also decides* to defray the cost of participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting by the utilization of unexpended extrabudgetary funds from the voluntary trust fund established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and through the reallocation of existing resources of the regular budget, if necessary. Extrabudgetary resources should also be explored for this purpose, including for financing the cost of participation of one representative from each least developed country in the meeting referred to in paragraph 4 (b) above;

6. *Welcomes* the steps initiated by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to convene preparatory expert group meetings, and invites donors to provide adequate extrabudgetary resources for that purpose, including for the preparation of substantive documentation;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, in resolution 46/156, to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to ensure the participation of at least one representative from each least developed country at the spring session of the Trade and Development Board, as well as the adequate participation of least developed countries at the preparatory, expert and sectoral meetings for the mid-term global review process;

8. *Urges* all countries, as well as multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions, to take the necessary steps to ensure appropriate preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting;

9. *Requests* all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit reports containing a review of the implementation of the Programme of Action within their fields of competence, with special emphasis on areas where commitments have remained unfulfilled, and proposals for new measures as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the mid-term global review;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, with a view to ensuring that the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has sufficient capacity to undertake an effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review, and to follow up the conclusions and recommendations relating to the least developed countries adopted by major United Nations conferences;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting and on the implementation of the present resolution.

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19 December 1994

49/99. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,¹⁶ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,¹⁷ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,¹⁸ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,¹⁹ the Cartagena Commitment,⁶ Agenda 21³ and the various agreements that provide an overall policy framework for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in order to address the challenges of the 1990s,

²⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/49/15)*, vol. I, chap. I, sect. A.

²⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.II.D.4

Recalling its resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended,³⁰ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly, 47/183 of 22 December 1992 on the eighth session of the Conference and 48/55 of 10 December 1993 on international trade and development,

Noting the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the implementation of the outcome of its eighth session, in particular its contribution, within its mandate, to trade and development,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system,

Also emphasizing that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic recovery and growth of the world economy, in particular for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations at the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, held at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 12 to 15 April 1994, and noting that the Uruguay Round agreements¹² represent an historic achievement, which is expected to contribute to strengthening the world economy and to lead to more trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world and in particular to the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries,

Noting that the Uruguay Round agreements represent a substantial liberalization of international trade, the strengthening of multilateral rules and disciplines to ensure more stability and predictability in trade relations, the establishing of rules and disciplines in new areas and the founding of a new institutional framework in the form of the World Trade Organization, with an integrated dispute settlement mechanism which should avoid unilateral actions against international trade rules,

Recognizing that the developing countries have made a major contribution to the success of the Uruguay Round, in particular by accepting the challenges of trade liberalization reforms and measures, and stressing that there is a need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development,

Also recognizing that subregional and regional economic integration processes, including those among developing countries, which have intensified in recent years, impart substantial dynamism to global trade and enhance trade and development possibilities for all countries, and stressing that in order to maintain the positive aspects of such integration arrangements and to assure the prevalence of their dynamic growth effects, Member States and groupings should strive to be outward oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system,

Expressing concern that during the reform programme leading to greater liberalization of trade in agriculture, least developed countries and net food importing developing countries may experience negative effects in terms of the availability of adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs from external sources on reasonable terms and conditions, including short-term difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs, and stressing, in this context, the importance of establishing appropriate mechanisms, as provided in paragraph 3 of the decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least developed and net food-importing developing

countries of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations,⁸ and stressing also the need to keep under review the specific needs of the least developed countries and to continue to seek the adoption of positive measures that will facilitate the expansion of trading opportunities in favour of those countries,

Recognizing the importance of assisting in particular African countries and island developing countries so that they benefit fully from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements,

Recognizing also that the full integration of countries with economies in transition into the multilateral trading system would have a positive impact on world trade and global economic growth and sustainable development, and stressing, in this context, the importance of promoting the trade of developing countries with economies in transition, as well as regional economic integration processes and cooperation among economies in transition and between them and developing countries,

Stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the corresponding know-how, in particular by and to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of the developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Taking note with satisfaction of the decision on trade, environment and sustainable development adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session,³¹ and, in this context, recognizing in the spirit of a new global partnership for sustainable development the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment, trade and development issues,

Recognizing the significance of the establishment in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of an ad hoc working group on trade, environment and development, thus encouraging the interaction of the Conference with other institutions with mandates in this area, in particular the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Trade and Development Board on the second part and resumed second part of its fortieth session³² and the first part of its forty-first session,³³ and calls upon all States to take appropriate action to implement the outcome of those sessions;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the policies and measures contained in the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in February 1992;

3. *Stresses* the urgent need for trade liberalization, including through substantial reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade and the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international trade relations, and improved access to the markets of all countries, in particular those of the developed countries, in order to generate global economic growth and sustainable development for the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries;

³¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 13 (E/1994/33/Rev.1)*, paras. 25-38.

³² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/49/15)*, vol. I.

³³ *Ibid.*, vol. II.

³⁰ See resolutions 2904 A (XXVII), 31/2 A and B and 34/3.

4. *Stresses* also the importance of the urgent and full implementation of the agreements contained in the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the significance of the entering into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization by 1 January 1995;²⁴

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Act, which confers special and differential treatment for developing countries, including giving special attention to the situation of the least developed countries;

6. *Emphasizes also* the need for continued evaluation of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements to ensure the expansion of world trade in order to promote sustained global economic growth and sustainable development;

7. *Deplors* any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed measures of trade liberalization through resort to unilateral actions over and above those agreed to in the Uruguay Round, and reaffirms that environmental and social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes;

8. *Recognizes* that, in order to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, environment and trade policies should be made mutually supportive, and in this context, takes note with satisfaction of the decision taken at the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee to establish a Committee on Trade and Environment;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of giving special attention to the least developed countries, with a view to enhancing their full participation in the multilateral trading system, and emphasizes the importance of commitments pertaining to special and differential measures to mitigate any adverse effects of the implementation of the Uruguay Round;

10. *Emphasizes also* that African countries should benefit fully from the results of the Uruguay Round, and stresses the need for technical assistance for African countries to enable them, *inter alia*, to evaluate the impact of the implementation of the Final Act so that they can identify adaptive measures to enhance their competitiveness and facilitate their access to the markets of developed countries;

11. *Requests* preference-giving countries to consider improvements in their preferential schemes, and invites the 1995 Policy Review on the Generalized System of Preferences to examine possible adaptations to the system, taking into account paragraphs 134 to 140 of the Cartagena Commitment;

12. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the appropriate focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment, services and sustainable development, and requests the Conference to continue its role in the field of trade and environment, including policy analysis, conceptual work and consensus-building, with a view to ensuring transparency and coherence in making environmental and trade policies mutually supportive, taking into account the work done by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other competent and regional economic institutions;

13. *Stresses* the need for the full integration of the economies in transition, as well as other countries, into the world economy, in particular through improved market access for their exports, including through, in accordance with multilateral trade rules, the reduction and elimination of discriminatory tariff and non-tariff measures, and the further liberalization of their trade regimes, including *vis-à-vis* developing countries, and also stresses, in this context, the usefulness of studies and technical assistance provided by the United Nations system regarding trade and trade-related

problems that the economies in transition are encountering in their integration into the multilateral trading system;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to focus and intensify its technical assistance in the light of the Uruguay Round agreements, with the aim of increasing the capacities of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, African countries and island developing countries, so that they may participate effectively in the international trading system;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to make proposals for translating into concrete action the commitments made at the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee regarding the least developed countries and net food-importing countries

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49/100. Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/202 of 21 December 1990 and 47/186 of 22 December 1992 and its other relevant resolutions and those of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing that, in addition to the general problems facing developing countries, many island developing countries experience specific trade- and financing-related handicaps and that many of these factors subsist concurrently in island developing countries, resulting in economic and social vulnerability and dependence, particularly in those countries that are small and/or geographically dispersed,

Mindful of the fact that in the 1990s, island developing countries, particularly the small island developing countries that have extremely open and volatile economies, are facing an international economic environment that may adversely affect their trading opportunities,

Stressing the need for support measures to enable the island developing countries to obtain maximum benefit from the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations,⁸

Underscoring the importance of international cooperation to support policies and measures of island developing countries in the area of trade so as to complement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³⁴ adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held at Bridgetown from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

Noting that many island developing countries are least developed countries,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the States, organizations and bodies, within and outside the United Nations system, that have responded to the special needs of island developing countries;

2. *Welcomes* the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³⁴ and the Declaration of Barbados,³⁵ adopted at the Global Conference on the

³⁴ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April-6 May 1994* (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, annex I.