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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
Seventh session, 13 and 16 May 2003  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT ON  
STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE  
COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

**DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

Submitted by the Bureau of the Committee

At its May 2002 session the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) approved a statement regarding the process for “Strengthening the Organization” that had been launched by the United Nations Secretary General. In this statement the Committee supported this process; defined the basic framework within which it would like to progress; and indicated the Committee’s desire to both increase its effectiveness and its work on implementation

To follow-up on this decision, as well as requests made by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE to the Bureau to review the intergovernmental bodies and the work under its responsibility, the enlarged Bureau reviewed the Committee’s structures and methods of work during its October 2002 and February 2003 meetings.

As a result, the Bureau is placing before the Committee this report as well as a proposal for modifying the format of the programme of work and associated procedures (TRADE/2003/10) in order to ensure a more timely and effective input by the Committee into the United Nations Budgeting and Programme Monitoring Processes.

**The items for discussion by the Committee can be found in the first section of this document under, “Interim Conclusions and Future Work.”**

### **Interim Conclusions and Future Work**

1. The Bureau examined the proposal found below for the “Restructuring of Committee Sessions”. Not being convinced of the usefulness of joint sessions between working parties and the Committee, as outlined in this proposal, the Bureau decided to ask the Committee if it should pursue this alternative any further. In this context, the Bureau also requests that the Committee evaluate the structure of the May 2003 Committee week, whereby a subsidiary body meets during the same week as the Committee, there is a joint forum and one half day joint session between the Subsidiary Body and the Committee.

2. The Bureau also discussed some possibilities for reducing the number of subsidiary bodies under its responsibility, but did not receive the support required for further investigation. As a result of its discussions, however, the Bureau agreed that it should continue its work in this area by taking a more comprehensive look at the structure of the Committee and all of its subsidiary bodies, based on prioritisation and the comparative advantages of the Committee. Thus, the Bureau has requested the secretariat to work on an initial analysis that will be discussed by the Bureau at its meetings in the autumn of 2003 and early 2004.

### **Proposal for the Restructuring of Committee Sessions**

3. The main parts to this proposal, foreseen benefits and possible concerns/issues and ways of addressing them, are outlined below.

#### **Proposal**

- i) The Committee would look in depth at work programmes of the two sub-programmes under its responsibility on a rotational basis, that is to say one year the Trade Development subprogramme and next year the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development subprogramme [Note: reports from the other subprogramme would still be considered and discussed, but not to the same level of detail].
- ii) The Committee Forum for the year in question would be organized by the sub-programme under consideration, on a topic under its programme of work.
- iii) In addition, the Committee would hold a joint meeting with one or more of the subsidiary bodies belonging to the subprogramme in question. For example, in a year when Trade Development was discussed, then the CTIED would meet jointly with one or more of the three subsidiary bodies supporting this sub-programme. For these joint sessions, one joint agenda and one joint meeting report would be issued.

#### **Benefits**

4. The above proposal should provide an opportunity for delegations and the Committee to have a better, more-in depth and focussed understanding of the work under their responsibility as well as increasing the ties between the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Holding combined meetings should also reduce the overall

number of meetings per biennium by 3 full days and the number of documents by 6 to 8.

### **Potential Issues and Proposed Solutions**

**Issue:** To ensure that all subsidiary bodies have the opportunity to present important issues related to their work and to have them properly discussed.

**Proposed Solution:** To request written reports from all subsidiary bodies on implementation of their programmes of work and to give 30 minutes of the Committee's time to all subsidiary bodies who are not holding a joint session with the Committee. This time would be allocated as follows: 5-10 minutes for the presentation of decisions required by the Committee or issues related to the implementation of their work programme; and 20-25 minutes for discussion by the Committee. This would be with the understanding that if a subsidiary body wishes to present an important issue for discussion more time will be allocated, provided that the Committee's Bureau is notified sufficiently in advance of the session.

**Issue:** Chairmanship of the joint sessions

**Proposed solution:** The sessions would be jointly chaired with the Chair of the subsidiary body presiding over discussions related to the work of that subsidiary body and the Chair of the Committee presiding over all other discussions.

**Issue:** Rules and Procedures and Status of any joint sessions.

**Proposed Solution:** To allocate one or two days of the joint session to the issues of the subsidiary body during which the rules, procedures and status of the subsidiary body would apply.

5. Other options that would avoid some of the above issues would be having back to back meetings with all of the subsidiary bodies under the sub-programme in question meeting right before the Committee, or reserving a half day during the Committee (under the Committee chairmanship) for the discussion of the joint consideration of issues related to one of the subsidiary bodies under the sub-programme.

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