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**2nd Extraordinary Session of the
Conference of Ministers of Trade
21 – 24 November 2005
Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania**

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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA
Meeting of Senior Officials on Commodities

21 – 22 November 2005

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Meeting of Heads of Delegation

It is expected that Heads of delegations will meet to review some modalities for the conduct of the meeting including proposals for the composition of the Bureau.

Agenda Item 1: Opening Ceremony

Statements will be delivered by the representative of UNDP, UNCTAD, the Managing Director of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the AU Commission. The representative of the host country will officially declare the Conference open.

Agenda Item 2: Election of the Bureau

Based on the consultations in the Meeting of Heads of delegations, the experts would elect the new Bureau members.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda as proposed by the Commission will be reviewed and adopted.

Agenda Item 4: Organization of Work

Under this item, the meeting will adopt its working hours and discuss other practical arrangements that will facilitate the smooth running of the Conference. In this regard, it is proposed that discussions of some of the agenda items take place within two committees that will run in parallel:

Committee 1 will discuss matters relating to general commodity problems, including risk management and finance; while

Committee 2 will discuss matters regarding specifically to commodity exchanges.

All delegates will however meet in plenary for items 7, 10 and 11.

A small drafting group will be set up to record the inputs that each Committee would like to include in the Ministerial Declaration. A drafting Committee for the Declaration and the Report will also be put in place.

Agenda Item 5: Presentations on General Commodity Issues

Committee 1: In its presentation of the document “World Commodity situation, its impact on Africa, and improving the competitiveness of African commodity sector”, UNCTAD will highlight the problématique of the commodity situation, particularly the aspects of production, trade and volatility of prices. The Conference is expected to examine the document and propose workable solutions towards improving the competitiveness of the African commodity sector.

Committee 2: CFC and UNCTAD will share the findings studies related to developments in the African Commodity exchange.” The Conference will then discuss the feasibility of establishing a Pan African Commodity Exchange and formulate appropriate recommendations.

Agenda Item 6: Technical issues in the Commodity Sector

Committee 1: In presenting the document on “Enhancing Commodity Finance and Managing Shocks in Africa”, UNCTAD will touch on the critical issue of lack of investment in Africa’s agriculture and make proposal to improve the situation. The Conference will be called upon to examine and enrich the recommendations put forward.

Committee 2: The Conference will discuss the technical requirements for the establishment of commodity exchanges in the light of case studies in COMESA and CEMAC regions, and will define the most suitable ones for regional and continental commodity exchanges.

Agenda Item 7: Presentation of the results of the Seminar on African Commodities: Problems and Strategic Options

A Seminar bringing together the main actors involved in commodity production, trade and policy making was convened in Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 November 2005. The Conference is called upon to consider the outcome of the Seminar and come up with recommendations that will improve the general commodity situation in Africa.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion on policy strategies

Committee 1: Under this item, the Conference will examine and determine the best policies and actions to improve competitiveness and promote vertical and horizontal diversification in the commodity sector.

Committee 2: Discussions in this committee will bear on the required policy environment, Institutional and legal framework for the development of the Commodity Exchange and it is expected that recommendations be made to enable the exchanges to yield developmental results to the continent.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion on the organisation and protection of the commodity sector:

Committee 1: Discussions under this item will focus on the formulation of policies to manage shocks and reduce the adverse effects on African economies.

Committee 2: This Committee will discuss the relative merits of national and regional exchanges as well as their complementarities and come up with appropriate recommendations for submission to the Ministers..

Agenda Item 10: Consideration of proposals of inputs by the two committees to the Draft Ministerial Declaration on Commodities

The recommendations of the two committees will be examined and consolidated as an input to the Ministerial Declaration.

Agenda Item 11: Adoption of the Draft Ministerial Declaration on Commodities

A draft Ministerial Declaration on Commodities will be presented to the Meeting for consideration and adoption.