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Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

Fifth session, 12 and 13 February 2004
Sub-item 4.3.1 of the provisional agenda

**TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION:
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Progress Report

1. The third Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation was held on 12 February 2003. The meeting decided to focus its future activities on youth employment in conformity with the recommendation of the First Regional Forum on Youth: Security, Opportunity and Prosperity, held in August 2002.
2. The meeting decided to change the name of the TOS to the "Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship" and requested the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development to endorse this decision. Accordingly, it reviewed the TOS's terms of reference and formulated new objectives (see TRADE/WP.8/2004/7, para. 4).
3. The work programme of the TOS for the 2003-2004 biennium is attached (see Annex).
4. The TOS contributed to the organization of the Workshop on "Promotion of SMEs – Strategic Direction in the Development of Youth Entrepreneurship" held in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) on 27-28 March 2003. It was organized by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Representation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) in Turkey, and UNECE in cooperation with the Youth Business Centre of the Republic of Moldova. The Workshop was attended by representatives of 9 BSEC Member States. On the basis of its deliberations, the TOS developed some recommendations to major stakeholders.
5. The TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation also participated in organizing the CIS Forum on Youth held on 24-26 November 2003 in Kiev (Ukraine). The Forum was attended by about 500

participants representing Governments, academia, private sector and NGOs from 25 countries. Representatives of UNDESA, ILO and UNAIDS also took part in the Forum. The Government of Ukraine put considerable financial and human resources in the preparations for the Forum and ensured effective organization of its work. The Forum recommended to the UNECE to extend the mandate of the TOS for the next biennium (2004-2005).

6. In August 2003, on invitation from the Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the delegation of the TOS visited that country and had intensive discussions with several Government bodies and non-governmental institutions. As a result of that visit, the TOS prepared a concept paper for the Ministry of Education on organizing a Belarusian Youth Entrepreneurship Development Centre – one stop shopping for youth.

7. In cooperation with the World Youth Bank, the TOS decided to start a Project on "UNECE match-making of needs and requirements of all stakeholders in youth prosperity". The objective of this project is to promote, empower and implement the "Good governance capacity-building" in all 55 UNECE member countries.

8. In cooperation with the World Youth Bank the TOS is currently working on organizing a South-Eastern European Youth Forum to be held in 2004 in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro). This project will be further discussed by the fourth meeting of the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation scheduled for February 2004. This meeting will also discuss the feasibility of organizing a Regional Forum on Youth for countries of Central Asia.

9. The Working Party may wish:

- to change the name of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation to the "Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship";
- to adopt the new terms of reference of the Team of Specialists (TRADE/WP.8/2004/7); and
- to extend the mandate of the TOS for one more year.

ANNEX

Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship

Programme of work for 2003-2004

adopted by the third meeting of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation
on 12 February 2003

1. Working with international initiatives

In order to fulfil the aims of the Millennium Declaration on Youth, the TOS would focus its efforts on the following:

- (i) Youth Employment Network established by the United Nations Secretary-General
Responsible: TOS secretary and ILO
- (ii) Youth Employment Summit Campaign established as an international NGO
Responsible: YES Campaign Secretariat and TOS secretary
- (iii) Youth Business International – YBI will search for expanding its activities with selected CITs
Responsible: *Mr. Andrew Fiddaman*, YBI
- (iv) Junior Chamber International
Responsible: *Mr. André Götti* and *Mr. Pierre Parneix*

2. Raising awareness of youth-related issues. Organising sub-regional workshops and forums

- (i) Workshop on “Promotion of SMEs – Strategic Direction in the Development of Youth Entrepreneurship” to be organized within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on 27-28 March 2003 in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova)
Responsible: *Mr. Sergiu Coropceanu*, National Youth Council of the Republic of Moldova
- (ii) Sub-regional Conference on Youth
Responsible: *Mr. Youri V. Sosyorko*, Vice-Chairperson of the TOS;
- (iii) Elaboration of a concept of a youth-related event for South-eastern Europe to be held in 2004
Responsible: *Mrs. Stasa Baloh-Plahutnik*, Chairperson of the TOS;
- (iv) Elaboration of a youth-related event for Central-Asian Transition Economies in 2004
Responsible: *Mr. Idrisov Abdul Aziz*, Youth Exchange of Labour, and *Mr. Almaz Borubaev*, Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

3. Development of School Businesses

- (i) Development of a pilot project between Communicare (Sweden) and Fazekas Mihaly Grammar School (Hungary)
Responsible: *Mr. Jan Olefsson* (Sweden) and *Mrs. Valeria Ládi* (Hungary)
- (ii) Development of a project on creation of a unified system of practical teaching and coordination for students and youth companies.

Responsible: Centre of Bridging Training and Certification, Research-Training Centre and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.

4. Creation of a project on match-making of needs and requirements using the web-site of the UNECE

Responsible: *Mr. Bogdanic Tomislav*, President of the World Youth Bank

5. Preparation of a Youth Entrepreneurship Report based on the presentations made at the First Regional Forum on Youth (24-26 August 2002)

Responsible: TOS Secretary and ILO