

17 June 2004

**PRESS BRIEFING BY CONFERENCE SPOKESMAN**

The adoption yesterday evening of the General System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) declaration was a major milestone in the history of South-South cooperation, Conference Spokesperson Awni Behnam said at the daily press briefing this afternoon.

Today, he said, the Conference Bureau would meet at noon to receive a report from the Committee of the Whole on progress made in the negotiated text. It was expected that the Conference would close on schedule tomorrow.

Some 160 countries had participated in UNCTAD XI, he said. The Conference had registered some 1,798 people for various events. It had also issued 677 badges to the media and 210 to United Nations agencies.

Mr. Behnam said that Karma Tenzing, who had been responsible for planning the Conference, had also planned UNCTAD X, UNCTAD IX and the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels.

Asked when the Conference would adopt its final declaration, he said the plenary was expected to meet tomorrow morning, when it would adopt the draft and make it available.

Also present at the briefing was Leonilda Correa, General Coordinator of UNCTAD XI for the Brazilian Ministry of External Affairs, who said that about 3,000 people had been involved in security, including 1,800 from the military. The Conference had created approximately 3,000 jobs and generated about \$10 million in investments involving 52 sectors of the economy. Expenditure by delegates and others involved in the event was estimated at \$20 million.

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