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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities

Expert Meeting on the Market Access Issues in Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons to Supply Services) and Effective Implementation of Article IV on Increasing Participation of Developing Countries

Geneva, 29-31 July 2003

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Market access issues in mode 4 (movement of natural persons to supply services) and effective implementation of Article IV on increasing participation of developing countries
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

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Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Market access issues in mode 4 (movement of natural persons to supply services) and effective implementation of article IV on increasing participation of developing countries

3. The Expert Meeting is being convened pursuant to a decision of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities. It will explore different facets of mode 4 in order to achieve convergence of views on a set of options necessary to ensure further progress in the GATS negotiations on mode 4, and to facilitate trade through this mode.

4. The discussions will serve to provide UNCTAD member States with a better understanding of the economic importance of trade through GATS mode 4. Presentations by experts, representatives from the private and public sectors, academics, regulators and trade negotiators will contribute to identifying dynamic factors behind this process, determining the conditions necessary to ensure a positive outcome of liberalization in mode 4, and increasing the participation of developing countries in trade. The Expert Meeting will address challenges facing developing countries in attaining their development objectives, the barriers that most affect their market access, and policies necessary to attenuate any possible negative impacts and maximize development dividends.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.22/2

“Increasing the participation of developing countries through liberalization of market access in GATS mode 4 for movement of natural persons supplying services”

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting

6. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities at its next session. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairperson, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are expected to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the Meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. Papers, which will draw on experts' experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. An expert paper may address one or more of the following issues:

- Based on national experiences, what is the economic importance of the movement of natural persons supplying services under the GATS and what are the main factors behind it? What are the prospects for improving the effective participation of developing countries in cross-border movement of persons? What are the economic benefits and welfare gains to receiving countries from importing services through mode 4?
- What are specific examples of positive experiences where actual trade through movement of persons takes place and where is there potential demand for such services of developing countries? What are the national strategies for exporting through mode 4?
- What has been the experience in pursuing recognition of qualifications, including recognition agreements, as a tool to promote trade in services, the impact on movement of nationals to provide services, and possible approaches in the area of recognition of qualifications?
- What have been the main barriers to market access encountered by persons supplying services abroad?
- How could progress be achieved in work on Article VI.4 disciplines to render market access effective?
- What is the commercial value of the initial offers submitted by countries in respect of mode 4?
- What possible modalities could be suggested on how to achieve further market liberalization under the ongoing GATS negotiations?

Experts are requested to submit papers by 14 July 2003 to Ms. Jolita Butkeviciene, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Fax: + 41 22 907 00 44, E-mail: jolita.butkeviciene@unctad.org