



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.1/EM.31/1
16 October 2006

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on the Participation of Developing Countries in New
and Dynamic Sectors of World Trade: Review of the Energy Sector
Geneva, 29 November – 1 December 2006
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. Participation of developing countries in new and dynamic sectors of world trade: Review of the energy sector
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of processing delays.

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

TD/B/COM.1/EM.31/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Participation of developing countries in new and dynamic sectors of world trade: Review of the energy sector

3. The Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its ninth session in 2005, decided to convene annual expert meetings on promoting participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of world trade. At its tenth session in 2006, the Commission chose “review of the energy sector” as the topic for the 2006 review.

4. The last few years have been characterized by important challenges in respect of global energy production and trade, including volatile energy markets, high energy prices, policy reforms in the energy sector, and the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. Rapid growth in demand, diminishing spare oil production capacity and surging oil prices are among factors that have pushed energy issues back to the top of the policy agenda in many countries. A new energy economy has emerged. Its trade and development implications for developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and Africa, are an important consideration.

5. Developing country economies face the prospect of higher energy prices and will need to diversify their energy mix, in many cases by moving away from fossil fuels to alternative sources of energy. At the same time, access to reliable and reasonably priced energy is an indispensable element for achieving poverty reduction and sustainable development. Against this backdrop, the Expert Meeting will focus on the theme of “Adjusting to the new energy economy: Challenges and opportunities for developing countries”.

6. The UNCTAD secretariat will present background notes on each of the three sectors in order to facilitate discussions.

7. The following document will serve as the overarching background paper for the meeting: TD/B/COM.1/EM.31/2 (“Adjusting to recent changes in the energy sector: Challenges and opportunities”). Additional documentation on topics relevant to the sectoral review will be made available during the Meeting.

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. 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.

* * * * *