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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year expert meeting on services, development and trade:
the regulatory and institutional dimension
Geneva, 17–19 March 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the expert meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

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

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.3/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Services, development and trade: the regulatory and institutional dimension

3. This first session of the multi-year expert meeting is being held further to the decision taken at the forty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board on 10 July 2008. The objective of the multi-year expert meeting is to assist developing countries, especially those in Africa, LDCs and countries with special needs in accordance with the Accra Accord, as well as countries with economies in transition, in establishing regulatory and institutional frameworks and cooperative mechanisms to support strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency, competitiveness and export capacity (para. 94(b)).

4. According to the decision of the Board, this session of the multi-year expert meeting is to address: (i) trends and salient features of regulatory and institutional frameworks for services, development and trade; (ii) the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory and institutional frameworks and their interaction with supply capacities, non-trade-related objectives, including universal access policies and trade liberalization; (iii) exchange of experiences and best practices for building human capital; and institutional and regulatory frameworks based on sectoral and modal (including Mode 4) case studies and policy reviews.

5. The meeting will highlight the role of regulatory and institutional frameworks in building competitive services supply and export capacity in infrastructural services, in improving universal access to essential infrastructural services and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting will contribute to enhanced global understanding and knowledge based on analysis of national and international policies, regulations and institutions, and sharing and distilling of best practices for harnessing the services sector and services trade for development. The meeting will also discuss some key cross-cutting issues from a number of countries' experiences with regulatory reforms as well as lessons learned from cases of regulatory failure, including the current financial crisis. The meeting will also identify means to support policymakers and regulators in improving regulatory and institutional outcomes and reducing risks of regulatory failures, while achieving domestic policy priorities. Finally, the meeting will help identify areas for deeper research and analysis; for consensus-building on and facilitation of international regulatory cooperation; and for the creation of networks of experts and research institutions working on the development and trade implications of infrastructural services and attendant regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks.

6. To facilitate 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/C.I/MEM.3/2 Services, Development and Trade: The Regulatory and Institutional Dimension

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting. The outcome of the expert meeting will be used as input for the final session of the multi-year expert meeting, with a view to formulating practical options and actionable outcomes in line with paragraph 207 of the Accra Accord.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged 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. The papers, which will draw on national and private sector experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers by 1 March 2009 to: Ms. Mina Mashayekhi, Head, Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, fax: +41 22 917 0044; e-mail: Mina.Mashayekhi@unctad.org with copy to: Ms. Martine Julsaint Kidane, e-mail: Martine.kidane@unctad.org and to: Mr. Aurangzeb Butt, e-mail: Aurangzeb.Butt@unctad.org.