



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
25 January 2011

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade:
the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension
Third session
Geneva, 6–8 April 2011
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. 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.3/7 Provisional agenda and annotations

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

3. The third 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 least developed countries (LDCs), and countries with economies in transition, in establishing policies as well as regulatory and institutional frameworks (RIFs) and cooperative mechanisms to support strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency, competitiveness and export capacity (Accra Accord, para. 94(b)).

4. According to the decision of the Trade and Development Board, the third session of the multi-year expert meeting is to address: (a) trends and salient features of regulatory and institutional frameworks for infrastructure services (i.e. transport, telecommunications, energy, financial services and water supply), development and trade; (b) the efficiency and effectiveness of these regulatory and institutional frameworks and their interaction with supply capacities, non-trade-related objectives, including universal access policies and trade liberalization; (c) 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; and (d) trade agreements, regulatory and institutional frameworks and regulatory barriers to exports.

5. Efficient and effective RIFs are indispensable to maintain sound infrastructures, as evidence across the world has shown. Since infrastructure development has been a significant component of countries' stimulus packages and growth strategies, such regulation becomes particularly relevant for countries in their post-crisis efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic and social development. Strengthening linkages between RIFs and sectoral policies such as development planning, trade and investment policies have gained increasing attention. Many countries are taking a more holistic and coherent approach in infrastructural services, development and trade.

6. The meeting will seek to enhance understanding of various issues and options relating to effective and efficient RIFs so as to support policymakers and regulators in improving regulatory and institutional outcomes and reducing risks of regulatory failures, while meeting domestic policy priorities. Building on the discussions undertaken and recommendations made in the first and second sessions, discussions will be focused on options to address key regulatory and institutional issues, including market entry, pricing, the relationship/linkage between competition regulation and sectoral regulation and the

coherence between all relevant policies. Particular attention will be devoted to the financial services sector, where the new regulatory reforms in response to the financial crisis appear to produce wide implications, in particular for developing countries and LDCs.

7. Finally, the meeting will discuss the linkage between trade in infrastructure services and related regulatory and institutional frameworks on a sectoral basis. Various approaches to address regulatory measures restricting such trade, in particular exports from developing countries, will be explored.

8. The outcome of the expert meeting will be used as input for the final session of the multi-year expert meeting, which is expected to assess the impact of regulatory and institutional frameworks for infrastructure services on development and trade, and identify practical solutions, options, capacity-building programmes and indicative guidelines/checklists of good practices for policymakers and regulators.

9. 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.3/8 Services, trade and development: the regulatory and institutional dimensions – Expanding trade opportunities for developing countries

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

10. 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.

Input 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 will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting, and addressed to Ms. Liping Zhang and Ms. Faustina Attobra-Wilson, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Switzerland; fax: 41 22 917 0044; e-mail: liping.zhang@unctad.org and faustina.attobra-wilson@unctad.org.