



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
11 December 2007

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues
Twelfth session
Geneva, 12–13 February 2008
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations*

I. Provisional agenda

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

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Introduction

1. At its twenty-third special session, within the context of the UNCTAD XI Mid-term Review, the Trade and Development Board recommended that UNCTAD's consensus-building pillar be strengthened, inter alia by ensuring that, as appropriate, the commissions take into account the work of expert meetings in their substantive policy dialogues, and by ensuring that, in order to advance the consensus-building process, intergovernmental meetings result in development-oriented outcomes including policy options, as mutually agreed (TD/B(S-XXIII)/7 (Vol. I), para. 32 (b)).

2. To this end, the Commission will have before it the reports of the expert meetings held during 2007, as well as background documentation and other relevant documentation prepared by the secretariat identifying policy issues for discussion by the Commission.

Item 1. Election of officers

3. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Commission shall elect a chair, five vice-chairs and a rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking due account of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members: four members from lists A and C combined, two from list B and one from list D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

4. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation established after UNCTAD IX, the bureau for the twelfth session of the Commission will be as follows: Chair from list D; Rapporteur from an Asian country in list A; three vice-chairs from lists A and C combined; and two vice-chairs from list B.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The twelfth session of the Commission is scheduled for 12–13 February 2008. The topics for the expert meetings were approved by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-first executive session, in April 2007. The provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission was approved at the consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board on 20 July 2007.

6. With regard to the organization of the work of the session, the Commission has two days available to it, and it is anticipated that it will complete its work by 6 p.m. on Wednesday 13 February 2008. The first plenary meeting, on Tuesday 12 February, will be devoted to procedural matters and statements by the regional groups.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/79 “Provisional agenda and annotations”

Item 3. Foreign direct investment and financing for development

7. To facilitate the Commission's deliberations under this agenda item, the secretariat has made available the *World Investment Report 2007*, which presents the latest global and regional trends on foreign direct investment and focuses on transnational corporations, extractive industries and development. In addition, the secretariat has prepared an issues note on “Foreign direct investment and financing for development: trends and selected issues”.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2007 *World Investment Report 2007: Transnational Corporations, Extractive Industries and Development*
 TD/B/COM.2/80 “Foreign direct investment and financing for development: trends and selected issues”

Item 4. Reports of expert meetings and of intergovernmental groups of experts

8. The Commission will discuss the outcomes of the two expert meetings held at the request of the Commission at its eleventh session. The first, the expert meeting on development implications of international investment rule making, was held from 28 to 29 June 2007; the second, the expert meeting on comparing best practices for creating an environment conducive to maximizing development benefits, economic growth and investment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, was held from 24 to 25 September 2007.

9. The Commission will also consider the report of the twenty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, held from 30 October to 1 November 2007, at which experts discussed practical issues related to the implementation of international financial reporting standards and issues related to corporate responsibility and governance.

10. The Commission will also consider under this item the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its eighth session, held from 17 to 19 July 2007.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.21/3 “Report of the expert meeting on development implications of international investment rule making”

TD/B/COM.2/EM.22/3 “Report of the expert meeting on comparing best practices for creating an environment conducive to maximizing development benefits, economic growth and investment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition”

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/43 “Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its twenty fourth session”.

TD/B/COM.2/CLP/63 “Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its eighth session”

Item 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission, including an assessment of the work of the Commission, since UNCTAD XI

11. The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Commission at its eleventh session, as well as an assessment of the work of the Commission since UNCTAD XI. The Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development will provide an overview of the division’s accomplishments in 2007.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/81 “Progress report on the implementation of recommendations by the UNCTAD secretariat”

Item 6. Other business

12. Under this item, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) will brief the Commission on its cooperation with UNCTAD in 2007/08.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

13. The report of the Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the twenty-fourth special session of the Board, in March 2008.
