



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.2/EM.14/1
5 September 2003

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology
and Related Financial Issues
Expert Meeting on FDI and Development
Geneva, 29–31 October 2003
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. FDI and development
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 Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

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

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.14/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: FDI and development

3. The terms of reference of the Expert Meeting, as agreed at the seventh session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, underline the need for host countries seeking to attract FDI to increase their competitiveness and to enhance the development dimension of FDI in the context of FDI in the services sector, paying attention to various rules and regulations that affect competitiveness.

4. As identified by the terms of reference, four themes that are of preponderant importance for the development dimension of FDI will be discussed:

- (a) How can FDI contribute to the services competitiveness of host countries?
- (b) What are the advantages and disadvantages of involving FDI in the privatization of services? What are the experiences of countries with regard to the impact of FDI on the performance of privatized firms and overall competitiveness?
- (c) Under what circumstances is it desirable to involve foreign investors in the privatization of services? What are appropriate policy measures to maximize benefits and minimize negative effects of privatization involving FDI?
- (d) What are the main do's and don'ts that Governments should keep in mind when involving FDI in privatization programmes?

5. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat is preparing an issues note on "FDI and development: The case of services. Trends in privatization-related FDI, impact and policy issues". In addition, experts are expected 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.2/EM.14/2

“FDI and development: The case of services. Privatization-related FDI: Trends, impact and policy issues”. Issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting

6. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its eighth 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.