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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues
Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on
International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
Twentieth session
Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2003
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. Transparency and disclosure in corporate governance: A review of the field case studies and consideration of ISAR's contribution to the practical tool kit for corporate governance
4. Other business
5. Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session
6. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Concerning the organization of the work of the session, the Group has three working days available to it. It is therefore suggested that the first plenary meeting on 29 September be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2) and the introduction of item 3. This session marks the twentieth anniversary of the annual sessions of the Group, which was established in October 1982. It is envisaged that time will be allocated to allow the Group of Experts to reflect on what has been accomplished so far in promoting improved transparency and harmonization of accounting standards and to consider the challenges ahead. These deliberations may take place before the introduction of item 3. Subsequent meetings will be devoted to detailed discussions of items 3, 4 and 5. The secretariat will prepare a tentative schedule indicating the issues to be dealt with by the Group, which will be available on the first day.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/18 Provisional agenda and annotations.

Item 3: Transparency and disclosure in corporate governance: A review of the field case studies and consideration of ISAR's contribution to the practical tool kit for corporate governance

3. At its nineteenth session, the Group of Experts agreed on this topic for its main agenda item, and this decision was subsequently endorsed by the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its seventh session. Case studies have been conducted on major issues of implementation of corporate governance disclosure requirements. The countries included in the studies are Brazil, France, Kenya, the Russian Federation and the United States. It should be noted in this connection that the Group of Experts has been considering corporate governance issues in accordance with the Bangkok Plan of Action adopted at UNCTAD X (TD/390).

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/19 Major issues of implementation of corporate governance disclosure requirements.

Addenda 1-5 Case studies on corporate governance disclosure in Brazil, France, Kenya, the Russian Federation and the United States.

Item 4: Other business

4. Under this item, various topics can be considered in connection with the ongoing activities of ISAR, some substantive in nature and others relating to follow-up. The Group is expected to discuss the following reports:

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/20 Reporting on the impact of corporations on society:
Current trends and issues

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/21 Revisions of the ISAR model curriculum for the
qualification of professional accountants.

It is also possible that the Group of Experts may wish to follow up on work in progress in the area of environmental accounting, for example the manual on eco-efficiency indicators. The Chairperson of the nineteenth session of ISAR may wish to present a brief report on the UNCTAD-ISAR guidelines on accounting by SMEs that were finalized and published during the inter-session period. At previous ISAR sessions, a number of regional and international organizations have taken the floor and updated participants on developments in their respective organizations. At the nineteenth session of ISAR, many participants requested that more time be allocated to such updates at future sessions. Similar updates are expected to take place at the twentieth session under this item.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session

5. The provisional agenda for the twenty-first session will be discussed in the light of the deliberations of the twentieth and previous ISAR sessions, as well as emerging issues in the area of corporate transparency, with due consideration for ISAR's mandate and the Bangkok Plan of Action. During its twenty-first session, the Group would also be expected to consider any new mandates arising out of UNCTAD XI.

Item 6: Adoption of the report

6. The Intergovernmental Working Group may wish to adopt agreed conclusions, as it deems necessary. The Chairperson may wish to produce a Chairperson's summary and a final report. The Group of Experts will report to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its eighth session in January 2004.