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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
Twenty-first session
Geneva, 27-29 October 2004
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. Review of the comparability and relevance of existing indicators on corporate social responsibility
4. Review of the implementation status of corporate governance disclosures and the role of such disclosures in adding sustainable value
5. Other business
6. Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session
7. Adoption of the report

* The late submission of this document was caused by the secretariat's workload in the period following UNCTAD XI.

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 27 October be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2) and the introduction of items 3 and 4. Subsequent meetings will be devoted to a detailed discussion of items 3-6. At the twentieth session of ISAR, when items 3 and 4 were proposed as the main agenda items for the twenty-first session, it was agreed that the two would be allocated equal time for deliberations. The secretariat will prepare a tentative schedule indicating the issues to be dealt with by the meeting, which will be available on the first day.

Documentation

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Provisional agenda and
annotations

Item 3: Review of the comparability and relevance of existing indicators on corporate social responsibility

3. In preparation for this item, the secretariat conducted a review of major existing initiatives on social indicators and organized informal consultations with an ad hoc group of experts to seek their views on the comparability and relevance of existing indicators on corporate social responsibility (CSR). The various views presented during the consultations and some possible approaches towards harmonization of social reporting and making CSR indicators more comparable and relevant will be discussed under this agenda item.

Documentation

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Review of the comparability and relevance of
existing indicators on corporate social
responsibility

Item 4: Review of the implementation status of corporate governance disclosures and the role of such disclosures in adding sustainable value

4. After deliberating on implementation issues and case studies on transparency and disclosures on corporate governance conducted in five countries, at its twentieth session

ISAR proposed the topic above as a second main agenda item for its twenty-first session. The secretariat has prepared a background report that highlights recent developments in corporate governance disclosures, presents the results of a survey of corporate governance disclosure practices at the company level, and outlines further challenges in improving disclosures in the area of corporate governance. The role of corporate governance disclosures in adding long-term value is also discussed in the report.

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Review of the implementation status of corporate governance disclosures and the role of such disclosures in adding sustainable value

Item 5: Other business

5. Under “other business”, several issues may be raised in connection with the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Working Group. For instance, the secretariat or the Chairman of the twentieth session will update the Group on the outcomes of UNCTAD XI (TD/410 and TD/L.382) and two parallel events that took place in São Paulo, i.e. a high-level round table on corporate transparency (TD/L.374) and a workshop on the role of accountancy in economic development (TD/L.386). The Group of Experts may also wish to review progress on the ISAR model curriculum. During this segment, the Group of Experts may wish to review recent developments in international accounting, auditing, corporate governance and social responsibility and solicit updates from other regional and international organizations on these matters.

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session

6. The provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Group of Experts will be discussed in the light of the deliberations of the twenty-first session, as well as its previous sessions and the outcomes of UNCTAD XI.

Item 7: Adoption of the report

7. The Intergovernmental Working Group may wish to adopt agreed conclusions, as it deems necessary. The final report will be compiled after the conclusion of the session. It will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues.