



**United Nations
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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Commission on Enterprise, Business

Facilitation and Development

Expert Meeting on Efficient Transport and Trade Facilitation

to Improve Participation by Developing Countries in International Trade

Geneva, 25–27 November 2002

Item 3 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. Problems of and potential for the application of current trade facilitation measures
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 and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. The Expert Meeting will have three days, from 25 to 27 November 2002, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.17/1

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Problems of and potential for the application of current trade facilitation measures

3. The Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development decided to convene an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Efficient Transport and Trade Facilitation to Improve Participation by Developing Countries in International Trade: Problems and Potential for the Application of Current Trade Facilitation Measures.

4. As agreed by the Commission, this Expert Meeting, on the basis of the commitment stated in paragraph 27 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, will discuss current trade facilitation measures, their application in developing countries and the importance and means of further reducing the divide between more and less advanced countries and regions in the formulation and application of global trade facilitation instruments.

5. The Meeting will address the impact of trade facilitation measures on the international trade of developing countries and their effect on effective capacity-building. In particular, it will consider (i) implementation issues, including (a) the use of information technologies in Customs and transport management systems as well as the potential consequences for trade of recent security initiatives; (b) the required environment for trade facilitation, including logistics, transport services and infrastructure as well as the legal framework; and (ii) the development dimension issue, including (a) the role of regional and local partnerships in formulating trade facilitation needs and priorities; and (b) the stakes and alternative positions regarding potential adoption of multilateral binding rules on trade facilitation.

6. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note on problems and potential for the application of current trade facilitation measures (TD/B/COM.3/EM.17/2). 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/COM.3/EM.17/2

Problems of and potential for the application of current trade facilitation measures

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

7. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its seventh session in February 2003. 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.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

<p style="text-align: center;">MONDAY 25 November 2002</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY 26 November 2002</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY 27 November 2002</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Plenary</p> <p>Opening statement</p> <p>Item 1: Election of officers</p> <p>Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the Meeting</p> <p>Introduction of item 3</p> <p>Informals</p> <p>Item 3: Problems and potential for the application of current trade facilitation measures</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Informals</p> <p>Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Informals</p> <p>Item 3: (continued)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Informals</p> <p>Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Informals</p> <p>Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Informals</p> <p>Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting</p> <p>Plenary (closing)</p> <p>Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting</p>