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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Measuring Electronic Commerce as an
Instrument for the Development of the Digital Economy
Geneva, 8-10 September 2003
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Measuring electronic commerce as an instrument for the development of the digital economy
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 Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.19/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Measuring electronic commerce as an instrument for the development of the digital economy

3. The Expert Meeting is being convened pursuant to a decision taken by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its seventh session. It will address the subject of measuring ICT usage in enterprises, including electronic commerce, through national statistical offices. It will bring together experts from both developed and developing countries, as well as from international and regional bodies involved in ICT-related statistics. Its objective will be to provide a framework for introducing the developing countries' views into the existing debates and initiatives on digital economy statistics and indicators.

4. Experts will discuss the results of ongoing work at the international level, analyse national and regional experiences, and propose best practices and guidelines in the area of e-measurement, from a developing country perspective.

5. A key element of the discussion will focus on identifying a set of core indicators for e-business which could be collected by all countries and which would be comparable at the international level. The experts will also look into the need for further work on the establishment of an international database on ICT usage by enterprises and assess technical assistance needs of countries relating to developing statistical compilation programmes on e-business.

6. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background paper entitled "Information society measurements: The case of e-business" (TD/B/COM.3/EM.19/2). The paper discusses the needs for e-measurements from a policy perspective, presents the results of previous work on measuring the information economy at the national and regional levels, and points to a number of areas where UNCTAD could assist developing countries in their efforts to launch information society measurement programmes, for discussion by participants in the Expert Meeting. 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.19/2 “Information society measurements: The case of ebusiness:
Background paper by the UNCTAD secretariat”

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 eighth session in December 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.