



**United Nations
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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation as an Engine for Development
Geneva, 21–23 September 2005
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. Trade facilitation as an engine for 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 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 to complete its work, from 21 to 23 September 2005. 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.24/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Trade Facilitation as an engine for development

3. At its ninth session, the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development decided to convene an Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation as an Engine for Development.

4. Long waiting times at border crossings or at ports, inappropriate fees or formalities, and unclear trade and transport rules and regulations can all become serious obstacles to trade and as a consequence adversely affect investment and the creation of employment. Developing countries depend on effective trade facilitation for their development process; they will only benefit from the "new geography of trade", i.e. increased exports of manufactured goods and more South-South trade, if their imports and exports are not confronted with excessive transaction costs, uncertainty and delays. Developing countries must be proactive in designing and implementing trade facilitation measures to enhance efficiency, reduce transaction costs and maintain supply capacities.

5. With its inclusion in the WTO General Council Decision (the 31 July Package), trade facilitation remains at the forefront of the development agenda of most developing countries, leading to increased activities aimed at raising awareness and capacity building. WTO Members have started a negotiating process on trade facilitation with a focus on the improvement of GATT 1994 Articles V, VIII and X, which deal respectively with transit issues, fees and formalities, and the transparency of trade procedures.

6. During the three-day meeting, experts and resource persons will analyse the increased need for trade and transport facilitation and the insertion of facilitation measures into the development process. They will further discuss ways of establishing national needs and

priorities as regards trade facilitation, as well as the requirements for technical assistance and capacity building to implement specific trade and transport facilitation measures that aim at building the required institutional, commercial, legal and operational environment for effective integration into the global economy.

7. In order to facilitate discussion, the secretariat is preparing a background note, which will be circulated as TD/B/COM.3/EM.24/2. The document will be available on the UNCTAD website www.unctad.org under the heading "Meetings".

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.24/2 "Trade facilitation as an engine for development: Note
by the UNCTAD secretariat"

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

8. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its tenth session in 2006. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

Wednesday, 21 September 2005	Thursday, 22 September 2005	Friday, 23 September 2005
<p data-bbox="284 495 513 528"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="347 566 450 600">Plenary</p> <p data-bbox="209 633 464 667">Opening statement</p> <p data-bbox="209 701 560 734">Item 1: Election of officers</p> <p data-bbox="209 768 528 880">Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the Meeting</p> <p data-bbox="209 913 475 947">Item 3: Introduction</p> <p data-bbox="331 1014 466 1048">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="209 1081 571 1160">Item 3: Trade facilitation as an engine for development</p>	<p data-bbox="699 495 928 528"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="746 566 880 600">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="624 633 874 667">Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p data-bbox="1112 495 1342 528"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="1160 566 1294 600">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="1037 633 1287 667">Item 3: (continued)</p>
<p data-bbox="293 1234 507 1267"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="331 1301 466 1335">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="209 1368 459 1402">Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p data-bbox="708 1234 922 1267"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="746 1301 880 1335">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="624 1368 874 1402">Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p data-bbox="1117 1234 1331 1267"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="1160 1301 1294 1335">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="1037 1368 1422 1447">Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting</p> <p data-bbox="1112 1480 1342 1514">Plenary (closing)</p> <p data-bbox="1037 1547 1342 1626">Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting</p>