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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on ICT and Tourism for Development
Geneva, 30 November-2 December 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. ICT and tourism 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 30 November to 2 December 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.25/1

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: ICT and Tourism for Development

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

4. Tourism is an information-intensive sector and therefore has significantly benefited from ICTs. The distribution of tourism information and products over the Internet is the main area where technological innovation has had the most profound impact on tourism enterprises (producers and distributors). The diffusion of ICTs enables tourism businesses themselves to make tourism products and services directly available to a large number of consumers at relatively low cost, and to interact with them as well as with other tourism producers and distributors. The increasing number of consumers that use the Internet to plan leisure or business trips represents a major incentive for developing countries to organize and develop their tourism offer and its promotion over the Internet.

5. ICTs are the most effective tools for developing countries to market their tourism offer and increase their customer base. By encouraging the development of e-business practices in the local economy, ICTs make it easier for countries to organize their tourism industry and stimulate cooperation among stakeholders. Despite the challenges posed by the adoption and use of ICTs in developing countries, tourism enterprises with well-conceived websites are given an opportunity to access international tourism markets on an equal footing with competitors from developed countries. The use of ICTs for tourism development is expected to produce economic benefits by generating increased revenue for the local economy and contributing to local development.

6. While a growing number of destination management organizations (DMOs) in developing countries have developed an online presence in the last few years, only a small share have so far been able to offer a fully fledged services web portal in the form of a destination management system (DMS). In order to take full advantage of ICTs and improve their competitiveness in tourism markets, destinations in developing countries have to instill

e-business practices effectively among all stakeholders and integrate local tourism providers into DMSs.

7. During the three-day event, experts will learn, through experience sharing and best practices, how to benefit the most from the opportunities offered by ICTs in the tourism industry. They will analyse the process of designing and implementing effective e-tourism strategies and ICT tools from a private and public perspective, based on partnerships among stakeholders in the tourism industry.

8. In order to facilitate discussion, the secretariat is preparing a background note, which will be circulated as document TD/B/COM.3/EM.25/2. The document will be available on the UNCTAD website www.unctad.org under the heading "Meetings".

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.25/2 "ICT and tourism for development: Note by the
UNCTAD secretariat"

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

9. 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, 30 November 2005	Thursday, 1 December 2005	Friday, 2 December 2005
<p data-bbox="284 477 515 510"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="347 546 451 580">Plenary</p> <p data-bbox="209 616 464 649">Opening statement</p> <p data-bbox="209 685 560 719">Item 1: Election of officers</p> <p data-bbox="209 754 528 864">Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the Meeting</p> <p data-bbox="209 900 475 934">Item 3: Introduction</p> <p data-bbox="331 1001 467 1034">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="209 1070 592 1137">Item 3: ICTs and tourism for development</p>	<p data-bbox="697 477 928 510"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="746 546 882 580">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="624 616 879 649">Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p data-bbox="1109 477 1340 510"><i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="1158 546 1294 580">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="1035 616 1291 649">Item 3: (continued)</p>
<p data-bbox="290 1211 505 1245"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="331 1281 467 1314">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="209 1350 464 1384">Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p data-bbox="703 1211 919 1245"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="746 1281 882 1314">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="624 1350 879 1384">Item 3: (continued)</p>	<p data-bbox="1115 1211 1331 1245"><i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i></p> <p data-bbox="1158 1281 1294 1314">Informals</p> <p data-bbox="1035 1350 1422 1417">Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting</p> <p data-bbox="1109 1462 1340 1496">Plenary (closing)</p> <p data-bbox="1035 1532 1340 1599">Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting</p>