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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting in Support of the Implementation and Follow-up of WSIS:
Using ICTs to Achieve Growth and Development
Geneva, 4–5 December 2006
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. The implementation and follow-up of WSIS: Using ICTs to achieve growth and 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 two days to complete its work, from 4 to 5 December 2006. The provisional schedule of meetings for the two days to complete its work is attached to this document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.29/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: The implementation and follow-up of WSIS: Using ICTs to achieve growth and development

3. This Expert Meeting is being held further to a decision taken by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its tenth session. The Meeting is organized jointly by UNCTAD, ILO and OECD.

4. Research findings confirm that ICTs contribute positively to economic growth in developing and developed countries. ICTs boost productivity by improving the efficiency of individuals, firms, sectors and the economy as a whole. In particular, the adoption of ICTs creates unprecedented opportunities for businesses in developing countries to overcome the constraints posed by limited access to resources and markets. SMEs can get better access to trade finance and e-finance through improved credit and e-credit information structures.

5. ICTs also lower transaction costs and facilitate trade, thus opening up new international business opportunities and allowing increased participation of developing countries in the information economy. Alongside higher levels of trade, they result in more outsourcing and foreign investment from developed countries – and increasingly from developing countries as well – to developing countries.

6. Developing better ICT literacy and infrastructure can help countries improve competitiveness and attract more offshoring. ICTs are important factors in determining who works how, where and when, and they can be associated with employment growth in developing and developed countries alike. However, ICT adoption favours skilled workers and can overlook those working in rural areas, the poor, unskilled workers and women. If these groups are excluded from the information economy, the input of a major working force is lost.

7. During the two-day event, experts will share their views, experience and best practices in respect of using ICTs to foster economic and social development. The Expert Meeting will examine the latest empirical evidence on the impact of ICTs on productivity and

growth of firms, industries and countries with a view to identifying how developing countries can best benefit from the information economy. In particular, it will analyse recent trends in trade in ICT-enabled goods and services, labour markets and employment in the ICT sector, including outsourcing and offshoring to developing countries.

8. In order to facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared a background note, which will be circulated as document TD/B/COM.3/EM.29/2. This document will be made available on the UNCTAD website www.unctad.org under the heading "Meetings". 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.29/2

Using ICTs to achieve growth and development

UNCTAD/SDTE/ECB/2006/1

Information Economy Report 2006

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 eleventh session in 2007. 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**

Monday, 4 December 2006	Tuesday, 5 December 2006
(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) Plenary Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Introduction of item 3 Informals Item 3: The implementation and follow-up of WSIS: Using ICTs to achieve growth and development	(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) Informals Item 3: (continued)
(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Informals Item 3: (continued)	(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Informals Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting Plenary (closing) Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

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