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Trade and Development Board Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

First session

Geneva, 4–8 May 2009

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. Reports of expert meetings
 - (a) Reports of the multi-year expert meetings
 - (i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
 - (ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration
 - (iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development
 - (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
 - (c) Reports of the single-year expert meetings
4. Creating an environment conducive to productive capacity-building
5. Exchange of experiences: investment policy reviews, lessons learned and best practices
6. Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the commission to the Trade and Development Board

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The Accra Accord adopted at UNCTAD XII established the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. As stipulated in paragraph 202 of the Accord, the commission will have the mandate of the previous Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, and will also assume responsibility for enterprise and information and communication technology (ICT) issues from the previous Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. Paragraph 201 further provided that “the role of the commissions is: to conduct policy dialogue on one or two selected issues; to consider reports of expert meetings; to manage and recommend for approval the work programme of expert meetings within their purview; and to promote and strengthen synergies among the three pillars.”

2. Paragraph 203 of the Accra Accord stipulates “The outcomes of commission sessions will be agreed conclusions from the policy dialogue and recommendations to the secretariat achieved within the scheduled time of the session.” These conclusions and recommendations should be focused, brief and directly related to the agenda of the session and should provide inputs to the research and analysis pillar and the technical cooperation pillar.

3. Paragraph 206 of the Accra Accord also provided that “commission meetings will have as their inputs: substantive documentation prepared by the secretariat, providing secretariat views and recommendations based on secretariat research and analysis; reports of expert meetings; inputs from the Global Network of Development Think Tanks, civil society and the private sector; and secretariat activity reports.”

Item 1. Election of officers

4. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main committees of the Trade and Development Board, the commission is to elect a Chair, five Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the bureau of the commission shall consist of seven members: four members from lists A and C combined, two from list B and one from list D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

5. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation established after UNCTAD IX, the bureau for the first session of the commission will be as follows: Chair from list C; Rapporteur from list D; three Vice-Chairs from list A and C combined; and two Vice-Chairs from list B.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The first session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission is scheduled for 4–8 May 2009. The agenda was prepared in accordance with paragraph 204 of the Accra Accord and was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fourth executive session in July 2008.

7. With regard to the organization of the work, and in accordance with paragraph 205 of the Accra Accord, the commission session will have a duration of five days, and this time period will include a break of one day for informal consultations. The first three days will focus on the substantive items of the agenda, comprising one or two topics and consideration of expert meetings’ reports and work plans. After a

break of one day, on the last day of the session the commission will address the institutional issues on the agenda and adopt any agreed outcome.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Reports of expert meetings

(a) Reports of the multi-year expert meetings

8. Under item 3 (a), the commission will review and discuss the outcomes of three multi-year expert meetings as follows:

(i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/4 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development and Capacity-Building Policies in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

(ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration

9. The topic covered by this multi-year expert meeting concerns the work of the Trade and Development Commission as well as that of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. The expert meeting will, therefore, report to both commissions.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/3 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration

(iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.3/3 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development

(b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

10. Under agenda item 3(b), the commission will review and discuss the Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/51, Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of
Corr.1 and Corr.2 Experts on International Standards of Accounting and
Reporting

(c) Reports of the single-year expert meetings

11. Under agenda item 3(c) there are no single-year expert meetings to review. However, the commission may wish to consider and recommend to the Trade and Development Board specific topics for future single-year expert meetings.

Item 4. Creating an environment conducive to productive capacity-building

12. Under this item, the commission will consider issues related to “Administrative efficiency for boosting productive capacity in times of crisis”.

13. It is essential— particularly so in a context of global economic slowdown – to remove unnecessary burdens and disincentives to enterprise activities, and to promote the application of existing, affordable solutions to reduce administrative barriers and improve administrative efficiency. Many countries, several of which are developing countries, have designed and implemented good solutions to make administrative procedures swift and transparent for creating companies, registering property, obtaining licenses, work permits and visas, paying taxes, etc. Smart laws and procedures, organizational schemes and e-government tools that have demonstrated their efficiency in one country could be helpful to other countries confronted to the same problems (Accra Accord, para. 155). International cooperation for sharing and disseminating smart administration solutions could considerably accelerate the pace and reduce the cost of administrative reform in developing countries, release productive capacities and boost enterprise development. The session on administrative efficiency will present the state of the art in terms of transparency, simplification and automation of business-related administrative procedures, and encourage the sharing of good practices and policies among UNCTAD’s member States.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/2 Releasing productive capacities and boosting enterprise development through improved transparency, simplification and automation of administrative procedures

Item 5. Exchange of experiences: investment policy reviews, lessons learned and best practices

14. This item deals with the review of national policies related to investment at the international level. The rationale for such process is to exchange national experiences in attracting and utilizing foreign direct investment (FDI) in an effective and efficient manner, through (a) in-depth policy reviews in individual countries and peer review at the intergovernmental level (Accra Accord, para. 149); and (b) international dialogue on best practice in investment policies (Accra Accord, para. 148).

15. The commission will have before it the investment policy reviews (IPRs) of the Dominican Republic and Nigeria. A half day will be allocated for each of the reviews. The deliberation will follow the format established by the previous Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. That is, it will be in the form of a peer review (country by country). Each panel will consist of a government representative from the country concerned (discussions are currently underway to secure the participation at the highest level for the presentation of both reviews), an international expert, government representatives from other member States, as well as representatives from the domestic and international private sector. The secretariat and the high-level representative will introduce each country’s report, followed by comments of the panellists and general discussions. As in the

previous sessions, the discussions of the reviews will be summarized by the secretariat in the final report of the commission.

16. The commission will also have before it the Chair's summary of the IPR of Viet Nam, which was presented on 9 February 2009.

17. Under this item, the commission will also hold a joint high-level session with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). A panel discussion (involving the IPR participants) will be organized on the topic "Best practices in investment policies", with a special emphasis on infrastructure. The *World Investment Report 2008*, together with advance copies of *Best Practices in Attracting and Benefiting from FDI for Building Infrastructure: The Case of Roads and the Case of Electricity* will be made available to inform the discussion. This segment will benefit from the experiences of both senior investment policymakers and investment promotion practitioners from WAIPA's wide membership of over 233 investment promotion agencies from 157 countries.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/3	Exchange of experiences: investment policy reviews, lessons learned and best practices
UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2007/9	Investment Policy Review of the Dominican Republic
UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2008/1	Investment Policy Review of Nigeria
UNCTAD/WIR/2008	World Investment Report 2008

Item 6. Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

18. Under this item and in accordance with paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord, the commission will review the activities of the secretariat with a view to promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD, namely consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical cooperation. The secretariat will prepare background notes for the deliberations of the commission.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/4	Progress report on the implementation of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to the areas of work covered by the Investment, enterprise and Development Commission
TD/B/C.II/CRP.1	Annex to the progress report

Item 7. Other business

19. Under this agenda item, the commission may wish to consider and recommend to the Trade and Development Board for approval, the substantive topic(s) for the second session of the commission.

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the commission to the Trade and Development Board

20. The report of the first session of the commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.