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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Second session
Geneva, 26–30 April 2010
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The Accra Accord adopted at UNCTAD XII established the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.
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 second session of the commission will be as follows: Chair from list A (Africa); Rapporteur from list C; two Vice-Chairs from list A and C combined; two Vice-Chairs from list B; and one Vice-Chair from list D.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The second session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission is scheduled for 26–30 April 2010. 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-seventh executive session in June 2009.
7. With regard to the organization of the work, and in accordance with paragraph 205 of the Accra Accord, the commission session will have 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 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/6 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3**Reports of expert meetings**

8. The commission will have before it (a) the reports of the multi-year expert meetings; (b) the Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its twenty-sixth session; and (c) the reports of the single-year expert meetings:

(a) Reports of the multi-year expert meetings

9. The commission will consider the reports of two multi-year expert meetings: (a) the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); and (b) the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development. It will also consider the investment-related outcome of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South-south Cooperation and Regional Integration. Their respective Chairs will present the reports of these meetings in order to guide the discussions. The commission will also consider the outcomes of two single-year expert meetings: (a) the Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development; and (b) the Expert Meeting on the Contribution and Effective Use of External Resources for Development, in Particular for Productive Capacity-building.

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

TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/7 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) on its second session

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

TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/6 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration on its second session

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

TD/B/C.II/MEM.3/6 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 this item, the commission will consider the report of the twenty-sixth session on of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), which focused on the review of practical implementation issues of international financial reporting standards, accounting by small and medium-sized enterprises, and corporate governance and corporate responsibility reporting. The Chair of the intergovernmental working group of experts (IGE) will present the report, highlighting progress made on these topics and the orientation of the future work

programme. The commission is expected to endorse the report of the IGE, therefore giving the green light for its future work.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/ISAR/54 Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its twenty-sixth session

(c) Reports of the single-year expert meetings

(i) Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.3/3 Report of the Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies as Energy Solutions for Rural Development

(ii) Expert Meeting on the Contribution and Effective Use of External Resources for Development, in Particular for Productive Capacity-building

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/EM.1/3 Report of the Expert Meeting on the Contribution and Effective Use of External Resources for Development, in Particular for Productive Capacity-building

Item 4

The role of States: efficiency in public investment for development – sharing best practices

11. Under this item, the commission will review how administrative efficiency can yield important gains for developing economies and help them achieve their Millennium Development Goals. Administrative efficiency, i.e. improving the transparency and simplification of business-related rules, and introducing eGovernment services where appropriate, can be self-financing and generate savings as well as income. By alleviating the constraint on business, it can help to release productive capacities, boost entrepreneurship and reduce companies' costs, therefore stimulating jobs and production.

12. In line with paragraph 155 of the Accra Accord, this session will discuss examples of best practices in facilitating business operations, by fostering greater transparency, streamlining procedures and developing eGovernment. Focus will be set on policies that governments may implement to legally empower the poor, and enhance the capacity of billions of informal workers and entrepreneurs to fully benefit from and contribute to the market economy.

13. The commission will also discuss an UNCTAD initiative to encourage the international exchange of best policies and practices among governments. Called the iPortal, it provides an online platform to promote international cooperation, in particular South–South cooperation, for sharing and disseminating administrative efficiency solutions for business facilitation.

14. The secretariat has prepared an issues note to facilitate the deliberation. A document prepared by the secretariat for the UNCTAD–Brazil High-level Seminar on the Role of Public Investment in Social and Economic Development (13–14 July 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) will also be available for the discussions.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/8 Public investment in administrative efficiency for business facilitation – sharing best practices

Item 5**Investment in the agricultural sector with a view to building productive capacities**

15. Under this item, which will deal with the review of policies related to international investment, the commission will hold a high-level session with stakeholders from international business, governments and the community of investment promotion agencies. The purpose of this agenda item is to bring together experts, government policymakers and representatives from transnational corporations (TNCs), to address the potential of foreign direct investment (FDI) for building productive capacities in the agricultural production sector of developing countries. The expansion of agricultural production and modernization of the agricultural economy is crucial for fighting hunger and alleviating poverty. Recently, rising FDI in agriculture in general, and in food production in particular, has provided an opportunity to potentially boost investment, expand production and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the agricultural sector in developing countries. At the same time, concerns have been expressed about the potential negative social and environmental effects of such FDI, among others dispossession of local communities, “land grab”, and environmental degradation.

16. The high-level meeting will discuss policy options for seeking to maximize the development benefits and minimize the costs of FDI in agricultural production. In particular, experts are invited to express their views on recent initiatives aimed at establishing internationally agreed principles related to foreign investment in agriculture. Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution A/64/418/Add.4, which “stresses the importance of promoting responsible investment in agriculture, and in this regard invites the United Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations to continue its research and analysis on this issue”, the initiative on “Promoting Responsible International Investment in Agriculture”, of which UNCTAD is a co-sponsor, will be presented by the secretariat for deliberation during the session.

17. To provide in-depth detailed analysis, the *World Investment Report 2009: Transnational Corporations, Agricultural Production and Development* (overview) will be made available, together with the Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development, which dealt, among others, with the issue of investment in agriculture. A note prepared by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the UNCTAD secretariat on “Promoting Responsible International Investment in Agriculture” will be also be made available to inform the discussion.

18. To complement the discussions on building productive capacities, the commission will also have before it the investment policy reviews of Belarus and El Salvador. Half a day will be allocated for each of the reviews. The deliberation will be in the form of a peer review (country by country). Each panel will consist of a high-level representative from the Government concerned (discussions are currently underway to secure the participation at the prime minister level for the presentation of both reviews), an international expert, and representatives from the local and the international private sector. The secretariat and the high-level representative will introduce each country report followed by comments of the panelists 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.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2009 (Overview)	World Investment Report 2009
TD/B/C.II/MEM.3/3	Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development
UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2009/10	Investment Policy Review of Belarus
UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2009/20	Investment Policy Review of El Salvador

Item 6

Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

19. Under this item, the secretariat will report on the implementation of the recommendations of the first session of the commission. In this context, the secretariat has prepared a progress report on the implementation of these recommendations with a particular emphasis on the promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD's work. The Director of the Division on Investment and Enterprise will also make a presentation of this report and of the new operational strategy adopted by the division with a view to increase these synergies.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/9	Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the first session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
TD/B/C.II/CRP.1	Overview of the outputs delivered since the first session of the commission in the area of Investment and Enterprise
TD/B/C.II/7	Progress report on the implementation of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to the areas of work on science, technology, innovation and ICTs

Item 7

Other business

20. 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 third session of the commission.

21. In parallel to the second session of the commission, the second edition of the Woman in Business Award will take place immediately after the high-level session organized under the theme of agenda item 5.

Item 8

Adoption of the report of the commission to the Trade and Development Board

22. The report of the second session of the commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.
