



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
10 November 2009

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and
Capacity-building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
Second session
Geneva, 20–22 January 2010
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. Enterprise development policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation
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 Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/5 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Enterprise development policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation

3. This multi-year expert meeting, which met for the first time in January 2009, aims at identifying policies and best practices that encourage the creation and successful growth of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation (STI). Another objective of the expert meeting is to review the coordination and consistency of existing policy measures dealing with the promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and private sector development.

4. The first session of the multi-year expert meeting focused on the importance of an enabling environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. The discussions highlighted three main pillars that are relevant to encourage entrepreneurship in the start-up phase: (a) support to entrepreneurship infrastructure; (b) the promotion of research–industry–government collaboration; and (c) access to finance, a major hurdle in developing countries. The experts' deliberations also explored the role of open innovation for SMEs in developing countries and the use of STI for poverty reduction.

5. The theme to be discussed by the experts in this second session of the multi-year expert meeting will be "From the evaluation based on indicators to policy frameworks for entrepreneurship and SME development and innovation – firm foundation, growth, finance and failure". With respect to the Terms of References agreed at the fifty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board, the topic was refined and revised by the experts at the first session of the multi-year expert meeting, and then endorsed by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-seventh executive session on 30 June 2009. The expert meeting will thus discuss the main elements of a framework for the effective formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national policies that can inspire and enable individuals to start and grow their businesses. It will also address innovation policy frameworks that respond to the needs and conditions prevailing in developing countries, with a particular focus on the case of those that are at earlier stages of technological development. In this regard, the expert meeting will pay particular attention to the discussion of a possible set of indicators that can be used to assess the impact of policy measures on entrepreneurial and STI activity in the country.

6. The outcome of the meeting is expected to be the identification of innovation and entrepreneurship policy frameworks that are adapted to the conditions that prevail in developing countries and that policymakers can design, implement and evaluate using available indicators and other sources of entrepreneurship and STI-relevant knowledge. It will also be used to identify a series of best practices to advise developing countries on how to set up a comprehensive entrepreneurship development policy.

7. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note entitled “Key components of entrepreneurship and innovation policy frameworks”. The expert meeting will also benefit from the lessons learned from UNCTAD’s technical assistance projects in this area. 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/C.II/MEM.1/6 Key components of entrepreneurship and innovation policy frameworks

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at its next session. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. Papers, which will draw on national and private sector experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers by 10 January 2010. Papers related to enterprise policies and indicators should be forwarded to Ms. Fulvia Farinelli, Enterprise Development Branch, Division on Investment and Enterprise, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 0122; e-mail: fulvia.farinelli@unctad.org. Papers related to STI policies and indicators should be forwarded to Ms. Marta Pérez Cuso, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics; fax: +41 22 917 0052; e-mail: marta.perez.cuso@unctad.org.