



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Multi-year expert meeting on international cooperation:
South–South cooperation and regional integration
Geneva, 4–5 February 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. South–South cooperation and regional integration: where we stand and future directions
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 two Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteurs.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

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

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. South–South cooperation and regional integration: where we stand and future directions

3. The 55th session of the Trade Development Board in September 2008 agreed that the first Multi-year expert meeting on international cooperation: South–South cooperation and regional integration should address the salient features of South–South regional and interregional integration schemes, including cases of effective/innovative South–South cooperation that augment South–North policy approaches in enhancing development.

4. The current global financial crisis has raised a number of serious concerns with regard to its impact on the global economy, financial sectors, foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade. This expert meeting will also discuss these concerns in the context of South–South cooperation and regional arrangements. Accordingly, the meeting will include three interrelated sessions, entitled South–South trade and the global financial crisis; South–South cooperation: regional integration and FDI; and Global financial crises: South–South solutions?

5. In the area of finance, the present meeting will aim to provide a deeper understanding of the current financial crisis and to search for possible policy measures with a South–South dimension, in order to minimize the impact of the crisis on developing countries. The meeting will discuss existing schemes of South–South and regional monetary and financial cooperation, and highlight how these schemes could help to mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis. The meeting will also examine how existing South–South and regional schemes could be improved, in order to better guarantee monetary and financial stability.

6. Discussion on investment will address the development of South–South FDI and the impact of the current global financial crisis. Experts will examine the relationship between regional integration and FDI, and how regional integration increases the attractiveness of different regions for investment and production, in the context of South–South cooperation.

7. In the area of international trade, the present meeting will discuss policy measures and approaches that enhance South–South trade, including regional integration schemes involving developing countries, with a special focus on the impact of the current financial crisis and on concerns about the effects of global recession on South–South trade. The meeting will aim to identify possible trade-supporting measures (e.g. in the areas of trade finance, transport and transit) within the frameworks of South–South and international cooperation that will help developing countries meet short-term and longer-term challenges.

8. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note. Experts and panellists will share their national or regional experiences on the topic of the meeting. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subjects under discussion. The papers will be made available at the meeting, in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/2 South–South cooperation and regional integration: where we stand and future directions

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

9. 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 Rapporteurs, 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. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers to the UNCTAD secretariat by 15 January 2009, addressed to Mr. Mohamed Elkeiy, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 9171790; e-mail: mohamed.elkeiy@unctad.org