



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year expert meeting on transport and trade facilitation
Geneva, 16–18 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. Maritime transport and the climate change challenge
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 meeting is reproduced in section I above. The meeting will have three days, from 16 to 18 February 2009, to complete its work. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Maritime transport and the climate change challenge

3. At its fifty-fifth session, the Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a multi-year expert meeting on transport and trade facilitation (TD/B/55/9, paras. 1–5). In accordance with the terms of reference, the first session of the meeting will concentrate on one of the important emerging global challenges affecting transportation, namely climate change and its implications for international maritime transport, in particular with a view to the concerns of developing countries.

4. Climate change is a global challenge and a defining issue of our era. Compelling scientific evidence and a better understanding of the economics of climate change have moved the issue to the forefront of the international agenda. Greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping are receiving increased attention, and possible mitigation measures are being considered, both at the regulatory and the industry level. At the same time, the effects of climate change and their implications for maritime transport, as well as for access to cost-efficient and sustainable international transport services, need to be properly understood, in order to ensure that appropriate adaptation measures are taken. This is crucial, given the special needs of the most vulnerable countries, namely the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States.

5. Against this background, and taking into account a broad range of cross-cutting issues, such as investment and financing, technology, supply chain security, and trade facilitation imperatives, as well as energy market volatility and security, discussions at the meeting are expected to help identify relevant policy actions that serve the purpose of climate change mitigation and adaptation in maritime transport, while furthering other objectives such as transport efficiency, trade facilitation, trade competitiveness and sustainable development. The overall objective of the meeting is to gain a clearer vision of the format, scope and content of a potential new regime on greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping, and to help ascertain the economic and policy implications of various mitigation measures, including on the trade competitiveness of developing countries.

6. In order to facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session (TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/2). 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.I/MEM.1/2 Maritime transport and the climate change challenge

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its first session in May 2009. 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.

Input 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 as soon as possible, addressed to Ms. Wendy Juan, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 9170050; e-mail: wendy.juan@unctad.org