



**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
Third session
Geneva, 8–10 December 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. Emerging challenges and recent developments affecting transport and trade facilitation
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 chapter I above. The expert meeting will have three days, from 8 to 10 December 2010, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/7 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Emerging challenges and recent developments affecting transport and trade facilitation

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 third session of the meeting focuses on a range of diverse topics including (a) the use of information and communication technologies in logistics; (b) emerging challenges affecting transport costs and connectivity; (c) the regulatory and legal framework for transport and trade facilitation, as well as UNCTAD's contribution to the effective implementation of trade facilitation measures ensuing from the WTO negotiations.

4. A combination of factors is currently transforming the international transportation landscape. These span a broad range of areas, including economic (e.g. the financial crisis), energy-related (e.g. fuel prices), environmental (e.g. climate change), political (e.g. security), regulatory (e.g. international convention and multilateral/regional agreements in transport and trade facilitation), and technological (e.g. information and communication technologies). These factors have a significant impact on transport and trade costs, which greatly determine developing countries' trade performances and competitiveness. They also entail implications for transport policy objectives such as efficiency, cost-effectiveness, trade facilitation, security as well as environmental, energy and social sustainability.

5. Given the broad topic areas and in order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session (TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/8). 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.1/8 Emerging challenges and recent developments affecting transport and trade facilitation

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

6. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its third session in May 2011. 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 the Trade Logistics Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 00 50; e-mail: trade.logistics@unctad.org.

Annex

Provisional schedule of the meeting

Wednesday 8 December 2010	Thursday 9 December 2010	Friday 10 December 2010
(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)	(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)	(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
Plenary Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Introduction of item 3: Emerging challenges and recent developments affecting transport and trade facilitation Informals Item 3: Emerging challenges and recent developments affecting transport and trade facilitation	Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>	Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>
(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)	(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)	(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)
Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>	Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>	Informals Consideration of the outcome of the meeting Plenary (closing) Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting