



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
24 January 2013

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Expert Meeting on Tourism's Contribution to Sustainable Development
Geneva, 14–15 March 2013
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Tourism's contribution to sustainable development
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. A detailed programme will be available one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.5/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Tourism's contribution to sustainable development

3. The Trade and Development Board, at its fifty-fifth executive session held on 15 October 2012, approved the following topic for a single-year expert meeting: "Tourism's Contribution to Sustainable Development".

4. The Board, at its fifty-sixth executive session held from 3 to 4 December 2012, then approved the terms of reference of this single-year expert meeting.

5. Tourism has the potential to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction, in particular in low-income developing countries. The capacity of the sector to generate employment and income due to its backward and forward linkages makes it important for economic diversification and growth. But at the same time the negative impact it can inflict on the environment and cultures cannot be overlooked. To ensure that tourism provides employment and income opportunities in the long run and contributes to sustainable development, its operations, including the activities that are linked with it, must also be sustainable. This calls for ambitious strategies and policy agendas.

6. This expert meeting will explore how the potential of tourism can be enhanced while at the same time addressing the risks and concerns. It will provide an opportunity to:

(a) Address the key issues regarding the contribution of tourism to economic growth and sustainable development. The key questions are:

(i) What are the specific features of tourism that makes it pertinent for domestic capacity-building and economic development and particularly relevant for poverty reduction?

(ii) What are the negative aspects of tourism that require policymakers to pay extra attention in formulating policies and strategies for tourism development?

(iii) How can Governments attract adequate levels of investment to build supply capacities, develop effective linkages between tourism and various other sectors, and at the same time address economic leakage and anti-competitive practices in the tourism industry?

(iv) Given that tourism-related activities rely, for example, on the development of infrastructure, preservation of the environment and cultural heritage sites, and

supply of energy and water, how can tourism as an economic activity be made sustainable?

(v) What are the policies and strategies that Governments need to pursue to promote sustainable tourism and to ensure that tourism contributes to sustainable development?

(b) Identify areas for further inter-agency collaboration and knowledge-sharing in sustainable development.

7. To facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note entitled Sustainable tourism: Contribution to economic growth and sustainable development. 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/EM.5/2 Sustainable tourism: Contribution to economic growth and sustainable development

Item 4

Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade 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 will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat by 4 March 2013 and addressed to Ms. Claudia Roethlisberger, Office No. E-10104, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 0046; e-mail: claudia.roethlisberger@unctad.org.