



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at all Levels in Support of
Inclusive and Sustainable Development**
First session
Geneva, 16–17 April 2013
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and 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 first session of this multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. The expert meeting will have two days to complete its work (16–17 April 2013). The provisional schedule of meetings for the two days is attached to this document. The detailed programme will be available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

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

Item 3

Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development

3. The topics for the first two sessions (years 2013 and 2014, respectively) of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at all Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development were decided at the consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board on 15 January 2013. The terms of reference of this first session, as approved by the Bureau at the meeting on 31 January 2013, are as follows:

Issues that may be addressed in this session of the multi-year expert meeting include:

- (a) Understanding external shocks affecting trade and development, in the context of building resilience;
- (b) Measures needed to foster policy buffers to build resilience to external shocks;
- (c) The role of the enabling economic environment at all levels in supporting resilience building;
- (c) Best practices and challenges in collecting and using statistics on international trade and development, to build resilience to external shocks.

Expected outcomes of the first session

4. The discussion on this topic, which will include presentations by experts from appropriate government institutions, as well as from international organizations, academia, research institutions and civil society, will allow an exchange of views, experiences and lessons learned regarding external shocks, in the context of building resilience and mitigating their adverse impacts on trade and development.

The possible outcomes of this session of the multi-year expert meeting could include:

- (a) Enhanced understanding of external shocks, in the context of building resilience and mitigating their impact on trade and development;
- (b) Identification of possible policies and measures to build resilience to external shocks;
- (c) Enhanced understanding of how statistics can help build resilience to external shocks and mitigate their impact on trade and development.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note entitled “Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development”. The document reviews recent trends in the pace of and the regional contributions to global economic growth, as well as the factors driving these trends. It highlights the factors that determine the size of a country’s exposure to external trade shocks and the need to build resilience to such shocks by adapting to emerging structural changes in the global demand structure. It also identifies ways and means that developing and transition economies have used to address external shocks originating in the international financial system and supplementary action that may be required in this area. The note concludes by examining statistical tools (in particular those related to international trade) whose use could improve the understanding of external shocks and their economic impact, as well as help design appropriate policy responses.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/2 Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development

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 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.

Input from experts: Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development

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 and will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers, which should draw on the experts' experience, may address one or more of the following issues:

(a) What macroeconomic and structural policies could developing and transition economies adopt to build resilience to external demand shocks resulting from weak economic performance in advanced economies, and how could international policy coordination support such efforts?

(b) How might the functioning and governance of global value chains be affected by potential rapid growth of domestic consumption in developing and transition economies and what perspectives does this provide for enterprises from these economies to assume leadership roles in supply chains?

(c) How can resilience to external financial shocks be fostered through insurance strategies, such as the accumulation of foreign reserves, the development of domestic debt markets, the broadening of the investor base and the issuance of debt instruments that provide insurance against domestic and external shocks?

(d) What are the most relevant existing trade statistics and indicators to assess the impact of external shocks and build resilience to mitigate adverse trade and development impacts, and the availability of what additional statistics would be feasible and useful in this respect?

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Provisional meeting schedule

<i>Tuesday</i> <i>16 April 2013</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>17 April 2013</i>
<p><i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Plenary</p> <p>Opening statement</p> <p>Item 1 Election of officers</p> <p>Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p>Item 3 Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development</p> <p>– The world economy: recession or transformational growth challenges?</p> <p><i>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 3 (cont.) Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development</p> <p>– International trade, vulnerability and changing patterns in global demand</p>	<p><i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 3 (cont.) Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development</p> <p>– Coping with economic instability originating in the international financial system</p> <p><i>(3 p.m.–5.30 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 3 (cont.) Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development</p> <p>– Statistical indicators measuring the impact of external trade shocks on domestic economies</p> <p><i>(5.30 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting</p>