



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: General
22 February 2013

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation
First session
Geneva, 11–12 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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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 expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.6/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Supporting infrastructure development to promote economic integration: the role of the public and private sectors

3. The multi-year expert meeting will be held in accordance with the decision of the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-sixth executive session on 3–4 December 2012. It will build upon the previous Multi-year Expert Meetings on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration. The objective of the first session of the expert meeting is to examine the different initiatives and mechanisms in support of regional infrastructure projects for sustainable development and to identify the key factors behind successful experiences and the main causes of disappointing results.

4. The current financial turmoil that has seriously affected developed countries has highlighted the need of developing economies to find new and independent sources of sustainable growth and development. Increased trade and capital flows among these economies are one possible source. However, while these flows have been on a strong upward trend in recent years, there are still significant obstacles to their future expansion, most notably in the form of infrastructure gaps. Infrastructure development, particularly at the regional level, can foster intraregional trade, thereby creating regional markets, and in the process help accelerate growth and reduce poverty. Together with expanded demand, it is also conducive to supply diversification, regional economic convergence and reduced inequality. Yet promoting regional infrastructure is a multifaceted task and requires large-scale funding that involves complex financial engineering, an appropriate regulatory framework and above all human, technical and institutional capacities for successful outcomes.

5. The first session of the current multi-year expert meeting will explore the role of different partnerships initiatives and cooperation mechanisms in supporting infrastructure development to promote economic integration among developing countries. Representatives of both the public and private sectors are expected to bring to the expert meeting their own perspectives and to highlight specific issues in connection with their particular areas of expertise, presenting a comprehensive view of the challenges facing cross-border infrastructure development.

6. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare case studies 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.6/2 Supporting infrastructure development to promote economic integration: the role of the public and private sectors

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 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

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 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 in advance of the meeting, and addressed to Piergiuseppe Fortunato, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Switzerland; Phone: +41 22 917 5647 fax: +41 22 917 0050 e-mail: Piergiuseppe.Fortunato@unctad.org.