



# 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, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation**  
**Third session**  
Geneva, 24–26 November 2014  
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. Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics
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 24 to 26 November 2014, in which to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached as an annex to the present document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

#### *Documentation*

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

GE.14-16175 (E)



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Please recycle The recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



### **Item 3**

#### **Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics**

3. At its fifty-sixth executive session, the Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a multi-year expert meeting on transport and trade facilitation (TD/B/EX(56)/2/Add.1). In accordance with the terms of reference, the third session of the meeting focuses on small island developing States.

4. The Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will address some emerging and persistent issues that developing countries are facing and which need to be dealt with as a matter of priority. In accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the Doha Mandate, the expert meeting will address trade logistics issues in developing countries, including those with special needs, namely the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition. Drawing from UNCTAD's three pillars of work, discussions will consider all relevant aspects, namely technical assistance and capacity-building, research and analytical work and consensus-building.

5. The third session of the multi-year expert meeting will focus on some of the particular transport and trade logistics challenges that small island developing States SIDS face in connection with their remoteness and geographical isolation (see Doha Mandate, paragraph 56 (j)). Small island developing States share the same environmental and economic vulnerabilities and sustainable development challenges, such as susceptibility to natural disasters; vulnerability to external shocks; remoteness from large markets, low transport volumes and connectivity leading to high freight and logistics costs; and high economic dependency on sea and air transport links.

6. Improved access to global markets and enhanced trade competitiveness is particularly important for these countries, as is ensuring the resilience of critical transport infrastructure. With small island developing States entirely dependent on ports and airports, climate change risks such as rising sea levels, increasing temperatures and more frequent and/or intense storms pose serious threats to vital transport infrastructure, services and operations. Understanding the underlying risks and vulnerabilities and developing adequate adaptation measures is essential. Against this background, the strategic importance of ports for the growth and development of small island developing States will be particularly highlighted.

7. Convened in 2014, the International Year of Small Island Developing States, and following the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Samoa Conference), the meeting offers a renewed opportunity to focus international attention on the unique transport-related challenges facing small island developing States and to consider ways in which these can be better understood and adequately addressed.

8. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session. 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.7/8                      Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics

**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 seventh session in 2015. 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 Policy and Legislation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 00 50; e-mail: [wendy.juan@unctad.org](mailto:wendy.juan@unctad.org).

## Annex

## Provisional schedule of the meeting

<i>Monday</i> 24 November 2014	<i>Tuesday</i> 25 November 2014	<i>Wednesday</i> 26 November 2014
<b>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</b>	<b>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</b>	<b>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</b>
<b>Plenary</b>	<b>Informals</b>	<b>Informals</b>
<b>Opening statement</b>	<b>Item 3 (continued)</b>	<b>Item 3 (continued)</b>
<b>Item 1</b> Election of officers	Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics	Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics
<b>Item 2</b> Adoption of the agenda and organization of work		
<b>Introduction of item 3</b> Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics		
<b>Informals</b>		
<b>Item 3</b> Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics		
<b>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</b>	<b>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</b>	<b>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</b>
<b>Informals</b>	<b>Informals</b>	<b>Informals</b>
<b>Item 3 (continued)</b> Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics	<b>Item 3 (continued)</b> Small island developing States: Challenges in transport and trade logistics	Consideration of the outcome of the meeting
		<b>Plenary (closing)</b>
		<b>Item 4</b> Adoption of the report of the meeting