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Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development

First session

Geneva, 8–10 November 2017

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

Item 1

Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development 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/EFD/1/1

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3

Financing for development: Issues in domestic public resource mobilization and international development cooperation

3. The first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will be held in accordance with the terms of reference approved by the Trade and Development Board on 5 April 2017 (TD/B(S-XXXI)/2). The objective of this session is to discuss challenges faced by developing countries and the international community with regard to domestic public resource mobilization and the modernization of international public finance for sustainable development and international development cooperation.

4. Effective domestic public resource mobilization in developing countries will be vital to efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and facilitate development transformation. Developing countries face major challenges in developing more effective taxation frameworks and capacities, and managing their fiscal space in a volatile global economic environment characterized by the following factors: persistent lack of effective global demand, continued lacklustre recovery from the global economic crisis in developed economies and subdued commodity prices. There is a need to improve regulatory, legislative and administrative capacities in developing countries to broaden their tax base and increase tax revenue, and to strengthen fiscal policy design and implementation with regard to expenditure. The role of national and subregional development banks in financing development also needs to be strengthened, and illicit financial flows curbed, not least by way of advances in international tax cooperation.

5. The international community has an important responsibility to garner sufficient international public financing to support domestic efforts in resource mobilization for sustainable development and to honour the commitment by members of the Development Assistance Committee to deliver 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance.

6. In the context of discussion and consultations on the modernization of official development assistance and a potentially enhanced role for blended finance, the international community should ensure the transparency of new frameworks, and clear and separate accounting of the longer-term costs and benefits of different types of financial flows and financing instruments for sustainable development, as well as of their true developmental impact.

7. From the perspective of international development cooperation, the emerging role of new multilateral development banks based in the global South deserves further discussion. Moreover, opportunities, in particular with regard to a growing network of cooperation between national, subregional and multilateral development banks, should be explored. While necessarily focusing on the most needy, efforts towards international development cooperation also need to take a more systematic account of the persistent troubles of many middle-income countries, in particular stagnation tendencies and developmental reversals.

8. The first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will explore these issues, in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with a view to developing policy recommendations on how best to enhance the mobilization of domestic public resources in developing countries and to maximize the contribution of international development cooperation to sustainable developmental transformation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A detailed programme will be provided closer to the date of the meeting.

9. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare articles on the topics under discussion. These papers will be made available prior to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/EFD/1/2

Financing for development: Issues in domestic public resource mobilization and international development cooperation

Item 4
Adoption of the report of the meeting

10. Agreed policy recommendations, based on discussions and deliberations held during the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, will be prepared for submission to the Trade and Development Board.

11. Under the authority of the Chair of the session, a report of the meeting will be produced for submission to the Trade and Development Board at its next session. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

12. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall determine the topics and guiding questions for its second session, in line with deliberations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development on future thematic emphases and core topics.

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