



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
27 February 2009

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Trade and Development Commission

First session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

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Provisional agenda and annotations

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The Accra Accord adopted at UNCTAD XII established the Trade and Development Commission. As stipulated in paragraph 202 of the Accord, the commission will have the mandate of the previous Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, and will also assume responsibility for transport and trade logistics issues from the previous Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. Paragraph 201 further provides that the role of the commission is: to conduct policy dialogue on one or two selected issues; to consider reports of expert meetings; to manage and recommend for approval the work programme of expert meetings within their purview; and to promote and strengthen synergies among the three pillars.

2. Paragraph 203 of the Accra Accord stipulates that the outcomes of commission sessions will be agreed conclusions from the policy dialogue and recommendations to the secretariat achieved within the scheduled time of the session. These conclusions and recommendations should be focused, brief and directly related to the agenda of the session and should provide inputs to the research and analysis pillar and the technical cooperation pillar.

3. Paragraph 206 of the Accra Accord also provided that commission meetings will have as their inputs: substantive documentation prepared by the secretariat, providing secretariat views and recommendations based on secretariat research and analysis; reports of expert meetings; inputs from the Global Network of Development Think Tanks, civil society and the private sector; and secretariat activity reports.

Item 1. Election of officers

4. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main committees of the Trade and Development Board, the commission is to elect a Chair, five Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the bureau of the commission shall consist of seven members: four members from lists A and C combined, two from list B and one from list D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

5. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation established after UNCTAD IX, the bureau for the first session of the commission will be as follows: Chair from list D, Rapporteur from list C, three Vice-Chairs from list A and C combined; and two Vice-Chairs from list B.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The first session of the Trade and Development Commission is scheduled for 11–15 May 2009. The agenda was prepared in accordance with paragraph 204 of the Accra Accord and was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fourth executive session in July 2008.

7. With regard to the organization of the work, and in accordance with paragraph 205 of the Accra Accord, the commission session will have a duration of five days, and this time period will include a break of one day for informal consultations. The first three days will focus on the substantive items of the agenda, comprising one or two topics and consideration of expert meetings' reports and work plans. After a break of one day, on the last day of the session the commission will address the institutional issues on the agenda and adopt any agreed outcome.

Documentation

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

Item 3. Reports of expert meetings**(a) Reports of the multi-year expert meetings**

8. Under item 3 (a), the commission will review and discuss the outcomes of four multi-year expert meetings as follows:

(i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/3 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation

(ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/5 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

(iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.3/3 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Services, Development and Trade: the Regulatory and Institutional Dimension

(iv) Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration

9. The topic covered by this multi-year expert meeting concerns the work of the Trade and Development Commission as well as that of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. The expert meeting will, therefore, report to both commissions.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.2/3 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South–South Cooperation and Regional Integration

(b) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

10. Under agenda item 3(b), the commission will review and discuss the Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its ninth session (15–18 July 2008).

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/CLP/72 Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its ninth session

(c) Reports of the single-year expert meetings

11. Under agenda item 3(c), the commission will review and discuss the outcomes of two single-year expert meetings. The commission may also wish to consider and recommend to the Trade and Development Board specific topics for future single-year expert meetings.

(i) Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.2/4 Report of the Expert Meeting on
Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy

(ii) Expert Meeting on Trade and Climate Change: Trade and Investment Opportunities and Challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.1/3 Report of the Expert Meeting on Trade and
Climate Change: Trade and Investment
Opportunities and Challenges under the Clean
Development Mechanism (CDM)

Item 4. Energy-related issues from the trade and development perspective

12. The proposed theme of “Energy-related issues from the trade and development perspective”, pursuant to paragraph 98 of Accra Accord, would address the implications on trade and development prospects of developing countries of the emerging global energy economy with a view to making energy accessible to populations and industry, affordable for all and especially the poor, and available for promoting development locally and globally.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/2 Energy-related issues from the trade and
development perspective

Item 5. Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

13. Under this item and in accordance with paragraph 201 of the Accra Accord, the commission will review the activities of the secretariat with a view to promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD, namely consensus-building, research and analysis and technical cooperation. The secretariat will prepare background notes for the deliberations of the commission.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/3 Progress report on the implementation of the
provisions of the Accra Accord related to key
trade and development issues

TD/B/C.I/4 Progress report on the implementation of the
provisions of the Accra Accord related to
commodities

Item 6. Other business

14. Under this agenda item, the commission may wish to consider and recommend to the Trade and Development Board for approval, the substantive topic(s) for the second session of the commission.

Item. 7 Adoption of the report of the commission to the Trade and Development Board

15. The report of the first session of the commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.
