



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Expert Meeting on Promoting Value Addition and Enhancement of
Domestic Productive Capacity through Local Economic Empowerment
Geneva, 12 December 2019
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Revised provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Promoting value addition and the enhancement of domestic productive capacity through local economic empowerment.
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. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

[TD/B/C.I/EM.10/1](#)

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3

Promoting value addition and the enhancement of domestic productive capacity through local economic empowerment

3. A key challenge in the integration of developing countries into the global trading system has been the range, variety (under the same classification code) and technological content of the goods and services they produce for export. Promoting value addition and enhancing domestic productive capacity is therefore a pressing and continuing challenge for developing countries as they seek to positively participate in global trade. In addition to domestic productive capacity, market access conditions under which goods and services are traded present formidable challenges. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document titled “Promoting value addition and the enhancement of domestic productive capacity through local economic empowerment” (TD/B/C.I/EM.10/2), which discusses trade policy issues relevant to addressing these challenges, with a view to increasing participation in international markets, which can also contribute to achieving Goal 17.11. A carefully planned strategy may use a combination of horizontal, vertical and qualitative diversification. Market entry costs, as well as quality upgrading, pose greater difficulties for smaller companies and in low-income countries. Regional cooperation in conformity assessment systems and regulatory frameworks can pave the way for new, non-traditional exports that can develop within regional production networks. Governments and relevant stakeholders will need to partner in such endeavours.

4. The Expert Meeting will discuss the policies needed in developing countries for international trade to be used in achieving inclusive sustainable development, in particular through adding value to exports. The meeting is expected to:

(a) Discuss the policies and strategies needed to ensure diversification that adds value to exports and strengthens and empowers local communities;

(b) Promote among participants a better understanding of the links between trade and market access beyond tariffs, namely the impact of non-tariff measures and voluntary sustainability standards in trade and productive capacity;

(c) Discuss how to ensure coherence between trade and other policies in the above-mentioned areas, even in cases where they touch upon sanitary and safety-related policies or environmental protection;

(d) Cast light on the importance of transparency, regional cooperation and governance with regard to non-tariff measures and voluntary sustainability standards.

Documentation

[TD/B/C.I/EM.10/2](#)

Promoting value addition and the enhancement of domestic productive capacity through local economic empowerment

Item 4

Adoption of the report of the meeting

5. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. These 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 Ms. Miho Shirotori, Division on International Trade and Commodities, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10; tel: 41 22 917 5556; fax: 41 22 917 0044; email: miho.shirotori@unctad.org.