



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Expert Meeting on the Ways and Means of
Improving the Implementation of Priority Areas
Agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action
Geneva, 6 and 7 November 2017
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. Ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action: Productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in world exports
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

II. Annotations

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 at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.


Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.9/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

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Item 3

Ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action: Productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in world exports

3. The terms of reference for the expert meeting were approved by the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, which requested UNCTAD to organize an expert meeting “dedicated to discussion of ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and focused on its goals and targets related to productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in global exports” (TD/B/EX(64)/2, agreed conclusions 530 (EX-LXIV), paragraph 10).

4. The objective of the meeting is to seek ways and means of improving the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with a view to fostering productive capacities, structural transformation and the diversification of exports in the least developed countries. The meeting will also examine the respective roles of Governments and the private sector in building productive capacities and accelerating transformative development in the least developed countries, through discussions and exchanges of views on the role of the development and trade partners of the least developed countries, as well as on international trade in building productive capacities.

5. UNCTAD provides substantive analysis on the need to build productive capacities in the least developed countries, which has led to growing recognition that doing so is a key requirement for these countries to achieve sustainable economic growth and development under the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge is how to operationalize the analytical framework developed by UNCTAD in specific national circumstances. In this regard, the meeting will build on earlier work of the secretariat and will contribute to efforts to build consensus on ways and means of accelerating the building of productive capacities in the least developed countries.

6. Panel discussions and presentations at the meeting will be structured in four sessions involving discussions and exchanges of views on the following: progress in the implementation and achievement of the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action; how to strengthen productive capacities in the least developed countries; mobilizing financial resources for productive capacity development in the least developed countries; and ways and means to double the share of the least developed countries in global exports while enhancing their benefits from global trade.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.9/2 Improving implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, goals and targets related to productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in global exports

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 meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Experts are requested to advise of their intention to submit papers and contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat by 15 September 2017. Written papers and contributions must be submitted to the secretariat by Friday, 29 September.

For further information, please contact Mussie Delelegn, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD (mussie.delelegn@unctad.org).