



MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON TRADE, SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

25–26 February 2013

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

PROGRAMME

Monday, 25 February 2013

<p>10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.</p>	<p>OPENING PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>Item 1: Election of officers</p> <p>Opening statement by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi</p> <p>Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p>
<p>10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.</p>	<p>Item 3: Trade, services and development: the regulatory and institutional challenges</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities</p> <p>INFORMAL SESSION 1</p> <p><i>Attracting and sustaining investment through enabling regulations and institutions</i></p> <p>Demand for infrastructure services in the developing world is booming, driven by both economic activities and the legitimate aspiration of large numbers of poor people to achieve minimal comfort levels. However, in many countries demand tends to grow faster than Governments’ abilities to finance the expansion of supply capacity. Private investment, including cross-border investment, has become an important mode of financing. Furthermore, maintaining and promoting an enabling institutional and regulatory framework, with independent decision-making by regulatory bodies, that supports industrial development and cooperates with competition authorities has been recognized as pivotal to attract and sustain investment into infrastructure services.</p> <p>This session will discuss the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) How best can regulations (e.g. regulations relating to pricing and market entry) be conducive to filling investment gaps in physical infrastructures? (2) What trade policy and other approaches can be employed to attract domestic and foreign investors, including in the public–private partnership context? (3) Can regulators exercise regulatory independence when they are affiliated or report to a ministry? (4) Which government body, if any, should adjudicate disagreements between sectoral regulators and competition agencies that arise in the furtherance of their duties? (5) Are sector-specific private sector interests less likely to capture (or unduly influence) a competition agency than a sector-specific regulator?

	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Nadia Horstmann, Head, International Coordination Energy, Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Posts and Railway, Germany ▪ Mr. Turan Tolga, Expert, Department of Strategy, Energy Market Regulatory Authority, Turkey ▪ Mr. Daniel Benitez, Senior Economist, Latin America and Caribbean Transport Unit, World Bank ▪ Mr. Matthias Finger, Chair Management of Network Industries, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland ▪ Mr. Hebert Tassano Velaochaga, President of the Board, National Institute for the Defence of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property, Peru <p>Interactive debate</p>
<p>3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.</p>	<p>INFORMAL SESSION 2 <i>Benchmarking performance of infrastructure service sectors</i></p> <p>Benchmarking performance in infrastructure service sectors has become prominent with increasing adoption of incentive regulation in the context of progressive liberalization and privatization in these sectors. Developed as well as developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) have turned to this policy tool to overcome market failures inherent to infrastructure service sectors, improve service quality, enhance accountability and improve the overall efficiency of different providers, including monopolistic State-owned enterprises, public–private partnerships and private participants. Severe constraints such as lack of data-collecting capacity, expertise, experience and domestic market/sector knowledge remain, in particular for developing countries and LDCs.</p> <p>The issues to be discussed at this session include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) In what sectoral and regulatory scenarios are performance benchmarks typically applied? How does the process of benchmarking performance vary in different scenarios? (2) How to set functional criteria for benchmarking performance of services providers (3) How to overcome the data constraints in applying performance benchmarks, including through regional and international cooperation (4) What difference exists between benchmarking the performance of private providers and that of State-owned enterprises? (5) How can North–South and South–South collaborations help developing countries and LDCs to overcome constraints in benchmarking performance in infrastructure service sectors? <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Philippe Raillon, Chair, International Strategy Working Group, Council of European Energy Regulators ▪ Mr. Moctar Toure, Président de la Commission de Régulation de l’Electricité et l’Eau, Mali ▪ Mr. Ifey Ikeonu, Council Member (legal), Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority, Economic Community of West African States ▪ Mr. Rui Cunha Marques, Professor, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal
<p>6.00 p.m.</p>	<p>Cocktails</p>

Tuesday, 26 February 2013

10.00 a.m. –
1.00 p.m.

INFORMAL SESSION 3

Stimulating innovation and adapting regulation to changing markets

A key function of regulation is to create an environment enabling innovation in infrastructure service sectors and adapting services to the changing needs of economies and consumers. Since innovation can significantly alter the way in which infrastructure services are provided, regulators need to keep abreast of technological and market developments in order to continue to provide the adequate regulatory framework. This bidirectional relationship between innovation and regulation – in the sense that regulation promotes innovation while it is also periodically amended due to innovations which have rendered it obsolete – demands significant attention as it is paramount to sustaining and improving effective services provision, in particular in developing countries and LDCs.

This session will discuss the following issues:

- (1) How can regulation act as a stimulus for innovation, including in emerging challenges such as climate change?
- (2) How can regulation best ensure the dispersion of innovations?
- (3) How should regulators adapt regulation to changing market conditions and technological development?

Panellists:

- **Mr. Michael Deegan, Infrastructure Coordinator, Infrastructure Australia**
- **Mr. Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group, Harvard University**
- **Mr. Kern Alexander, University of Zurich, and Centre for Financial Analysis and Policy, University of Cambridge**

Interactive debate

3.00 p.m. –
5.30 p.m.

INFORMAL SESSION 4

Ensuring universal access

Universal access to infrastructure services remains an important public policy objective being pursued by regulators, and is directly relevant to the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction goals. Regulatory measures are required to extend the network to the unconnected and make such services more affordable to those already connected in order to reap the benefits their consumption creates for society (their nature as a public good) and from the positive impact they can have on a country's competitiveness and efficiency. Such measures take the form of allocating subsidies for the use of key infrastructure services to targeted consumers such as the poor and rural households, subsidizing the production and distribution of such services and imposing statutory universal services obligations on services providers.

The issues to be discussed at this session include the following:

- (1) What tools should be used to ensure and promote universal access in different infrastructure service sectors?
- (2) How can subsidies to producers and consumers be best used to promote universal access?
- (3) What are the key policy and regulatory challenges in promoting and implementing universal access in different national and sectoral contexts?

Panellists:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ahmad Buchori, Director of Islamic Banking Department, Bank of Indonesia ▪ Mr. Hugo Altomonte, Director, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ▪ Mr. Mostafa Abid Khan, Member, Bangladesh Tariff Commission, Bangladesh ▪ Ms. Myriam Vander Stichele, Senior Researcher, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, Fellow at Transnational Institute <p>Interactive debate</p>
<p>5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.</p>	<p>CONCLUDING SESSION</p>