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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing
the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels
in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development,
and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation
First session
Geneva, 26 and 27 October 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. Harnessing international production networks to foster inclusive growth and local productive capacities
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 one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/1

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3**Harnessing international production networks to foster inclusive growth and local productive capacities**

3. The first session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation will be held in accordance with the terms of reference approved by the Trade and Development Board at its thirty-first special session in April 2017 (TD/B(S-XXXI)/2). The objective of this session is to discuss how to harness international production networks to foster inclusive growth and local productive capacities.

4. A combination of falling commodity prices, increasing financial market volatility and weak global demand has negatively affected growth performance in developing economies in recent years. Against this difficult background, high hopes have been placed in the trade and industrialization opportunities offered by international production networks. Rather than having to develop an entire product or break into highly competitive markets on their own, developing countries can specialize in specific tasks or components of a multitude of value chains, starting at the relatively accessible bottom and steadily upgrading to higher value adding activities. However, as documented in the *Trade and Development Report, 2016: Structural Transformation for Inclusive and Sustained Growth*, the evidence of a positive association between participation in global value chains and industrialization is weak. Many countries in the developing world have found it difficult to scale up and diversify across global value chains; instead, they have been locked into low value adding tasks and are often hostage to price competition that keeps wages low.

5. The first session of the Expert Meeting will explore strategic approaches to link up to global value chains in order to upgrade local productive capacities and sustain an inclusive growth process. It will focus on the opportunities offered by regional value chains and South–South cooperation in this respect and discuss the role that industrial policy can play to turn integration and upgrading in global value chains into a driver of economic development. Particular attention will be devoted to the case of Southern Africa and lessons learned from other regions in the South.

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

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/2

Harnessing international production networks to foster inclusive growth and local productive capacities

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 Expert 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 UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 29 September.

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