



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development
Fourth session
Geneva, 5–6 December 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Making investment contribute to development: the policy perspective
4. 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

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.II/MEM.3/10 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Making investment contribute to development: the policy perspective

3. The topic for the fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development was decided at the fifty-fifth annual session of the Trade and Development Board, in 2008, as follows (see document TD/B/55/9):

Summing up of prior three meetings

28. The expert meeting will pull together the findings of the three previous meetings to draw the lessons that can be derived from making investment contribute to development from the policy perspective, and the special role of public-private partnerships.

This last session is thus intended to summarize the work of the multi-year expert meeting from the policy perspective, bringing to a close the cycle of work undertaken on the subject matter in time for the next conference. The timing of the fourth session suggests that it will also serve as a preparatory step towards UNCTAD XIII – in particular, the deliberations under sub-theme 4 of “Promoting investment, trade, entrepreneurship and related development policies to foster sustained economic growth for sustainable and inclusive development” and the related second ministerial roundtable on 22 April 2012.

4. The current investment policy regime has become more complex, diversified, and interconnected with various other policy areas. As a consequence, investment policymakers are faced with new and complex challenges, both at the national and international level. Furthermore, the recent economic and financial crises have brought the issue of how to readjust the regulatory powers of the State in the economy to the centre of discussions. There has also been a general trend of rebalancing investment policies. In particular, policymakers have been seeking to “protect” sensitive industries and national security, and have been aiming to promote responsible investment. Finding the “right” balance between investment liberalization and regulation is a major challenge, especially in light of growing concerns about investment protectionism. At the international level, policymakers are faced with an increasingly complex system of thousands of international investment agreements (IIAs), many ongoing negotiations, and multiple dispute-settlement mechanisms. Today’s atomized system of bilateral and regional investment relationships, together with the special situation of most developing countries, and the absence of a multilateral investment regime, create additional challenges, calling for a more coordinated approach towards IIAs.

5. Experts will be requested to elaborate on, and add to, the key issue areas identified by the secretariat. Experts are also asked to shed light on other areas of concern and future consideration in this regard.

6. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat will prepare an issues paper entitled “Investment for development: current policy challenges”. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers 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.II/MEM.3/11 Investment for development: current policy challenges

Item 4. Report of the meeting

7. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at its next session.