

**CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR
LE COMMERCE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT**



**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING – 2013 Session –
Investment for Productive Capacity-Building and
Sustainable Development: The Regional Context
Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXVI, 28 -30 January 2013**

Regional Integration and Foreign Direct Investment

Context, content and format of the meeting

The rise of the trade and investment nexus, especially in the context of regional value chains, necessarily brings sharp focus onto regional integration and its effect on FDI (and vice versa). This meeting assesses the relationship between regional integration and FDI and how it can be managed to foster growth and sustainable development. A number of inter-related themes will be examined, including: developments and trends in regional integration (including inter-regional efforts); regional integration's influence on how transnational corporations (TNCs) govern FDI, trade and non-equity modes (NEMs, e.g. contract farming, contract manufacturing, licensing and services outsourcing); productive capacity building through regional clusters and networks; the synergistic outcomes of coherent industrial, regional, trade and investment policies; and best practices for promoting investment for sustainable development through regional integration.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify concrete policy lessons, consider options to foster and benefit from regional integration and FDI, and establish future work areas in the interest of furthering sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The meeting will bring together capital-based, regional and international experts and policymakers to exchange views on the above themes and issues in an interactive, informal format that allows for a free flowing discussion.

Experts are encouraged to keep their interventions short and to the point (e.g. 3-5 minutes), of course with the assurance of having a number of opportunities to speak.

-- PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME --

Monday, 28 January 2013

10 a.m.- 1 p.m. OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Item 1: Election of Officers

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Opening Statement by James Zhan, Director,
Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

INFORMAL SESSION 1

Item 3: Regional integration and foreign direct investment in developing and transition economies

Interactive debate

3 p.m. - 6 p.m. INFORMAL SESSION 2: Item 3

Theme 1: Regional integration: the trade and investment nexus

Focus: The trade and investment nexus and its interrelationship between regional integration and the strategies of TNCs. What factors influence this interrelationship and in what ways can they be enhanced so that FDI supports sustainable development efforts, while minimising costs and risks.

- How does regional integration affect TNCs' trade and investment strategies?
- How does FDI affect regional integration?
- What are the development implications of the increased role of the trade-investment nexus?

Interactive debate

6.15 p.m. Cocktail reception, *Delegates Restaurant (Building A, 8th floor)*

Tuesday, 29 January 2013

10 a.m.- 1 p.m. INFORMAL SESSION 3: Item 3

Theme 2: Regional value chains and productive capacity-building

Focus: Evidence on how regional value chains help build productive capacity, including dissemination of technology, knowledge and expertise, e.g. through cross-border industrial clusters/integrated regional production, regional research and incubators, and cross-border industrial/free trade zones in building capacity. Best practices and lessons learnt.

- How does regional integration promote (regional) value chain development? Which factors are critical?
- To what extent - and how - do regional value chains enhance local productive capacity-building? How can they help mobilize domestic investment?
- What are the best practices, pitfalls and lessons learnt?

Interactive debate

3 p.m. - 6 p.m. INFORMAL SESSION 4: Item 3

Theme 3: Regional integration and policy coherence

Focus: As trade and investment policies are being implemented at several levels of governance (e.g. national, regional and multilateral), it is important to ensure coherence between them. This is even more so in instances where regional commitments are legally binding, effectively guiding and/or constraining national policies. How to minimize the coherence risks and maximize synergies at the national, regional and inter-regional level?

- How to maximize synergies between trade and investment policies?
- How to ensure coherence between national investment policies and regional investment policies in pursuit of regional integration?
- What are the "Do's" and "Don'ts" in this regard?

Interactive debate

Wednesday, 30 January 2013

10 a.m.- 1 p.m INFORMAL SESSION 5: Item 3

Theme 4: Regional integration and sustainable development

Focus: Regional integration aims at fostering the sustainable development of the participating countries. Recently however, concerns have been voiced that regional trade and investment rules may constrain domestic regulatory measures in the pursuit of sustainable development. With regionalism being on the rise, a better understanding of these issues is warranted. What are best policy and institutional practices in this regard?

- How to ensure that regional integration fosters sustainable development?
- How to manage the interaction between trade/investment policies and other public policies?
- What institutional mechanisms are needed in the regional context?

Interactive debate

3 p.m. - 6 p.m INFORMAL SESSION 6: Item 3

Theme 5: The way forward

Focus: Regional integration can serve as an important building block for international cooperation, but is also seen as eroding multilateralism. With regionalism on the rise and multilateralism in question, the point has come to critically review the relationship between the two and set it on a positive course.

- How to ensure that regional approaches contribute to strengthening (rather than eroding) multilateral cooperation on investment for sustainable development?
- Checklist of good practices for promoting investment for sustainable development through regional integration: what are key elements?

Interactive debate

followed by

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting

-- PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE --

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	Monday 28 January 2013	Tuesday 29 January 2013	Wednesday 30 January 2013
10 a.m.- 1 p.m	OPENING PLENARY SESSION Item 1 Election of officers Item 2 Adoption of the agenda Opening Statement by James Zhan, Director, UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise First informal session Item 3: Regional integration and foreign direct investment Interactive debate	INFORMAL SESSION 3 Item 3 Theme 2: Regional value chains for productive capacity-building Interactive debate	INFORMAL SESSION 5 Item 3 Theme 4: Regional integration and sustainable development Interactive debate
3 p.m. - 6 p.m	INFORMAL SESSION 2 Item 3 Theme 1: Regional integration: the trade and investment nexus Interactive debate	INFORMAL SESSION 4 Item 3 Theme 3: Regional integration and policy coherence Interactive debate	INFORMAL SESSION 6 Item 3 Theme 5: The way forward Interactive debate followed by Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting
6.15 p.m.	Cocktail reception (<i>Delegates restaurant, building A, 8th floor</i>)		