

**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies
and Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation
(Third Session)**

**Introduction of the UNCTAD
Entrepreneurship Policy Framework**

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**By
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[SLIDE 1]

- I am pleased to welcome you all to this Third Session of UNCTAD’s “Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and Capacity-Building in Science, Technology and Innovation”.

[SLIDE 2]

- At previous sessions of this Multi-year Expert Meeting, *experts mandated UNCTAD to provide guidance on how to set up and sequence the implementation of a comprehensive entrepreneurship development policy*, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries, least-developed countries, and countries in transition.
- In response, UNCTAD has developed an **entrepreneurship policy framework with six priority areas** that have a direct impact on entrepreneurial activity. In conjunction with this – in order to facilitate practical implementation of the entrepreneurship policy framework – UNCTAD has made good progress towards developing a **policy toolkit** with practical guidance for each of the six areas.
- *Following the recommendation of experts at previous sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting*, this Third Session of the meeting will particularly focus on policies, programmes, and methods for **entrepreneurship education**. Therefore, I am pleased to inform you that – tomorrow – you will have the opportunity to see a prototype of our toolkit for this important area that will support UNCTAD’s advisory services in this area.

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- This meeting comes at a time when it is increasingly clear that the wake of the recent global crisis will not simply prompt a return to “business as usual”. Many old certainties are in doubt even as many governments – in developed and developing countries alike – have taken a much more active stake in their national economies. The question for policymakers now is: how this momentum may be channelled towards carving out new development paths for the 21st century.
- In this regard, UNCTAD has long advocated for a *creative interplay between foreign direct investment (FDI) and the development of local productive capacities*. Even in today’s post-crisis world – and perhaps more so than ever – the potential of global FDI flows for catalysing national development is enormous and simply too large to ignore. We must resist protectionist urges. Nevertheless, this potential will go largely untapped if firms in developing countries, and especially least-developed countries (LDCs), are not ready to take advantage of it.
- In this context, policymakers around the globe have recently put the promotion of entrepreneurship, the development of local entrepreneurial capabilities – *and its interplay with FDI* – high on their agenda. UNCTAD is working to assist developing countries, in particular LDCs, to develop action plans with a view to strengthening financial markets to

boost small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), improve the business investment climate, maximize the value-added of private investment and support the regulatory framework for foreign and domestic investment.

- Through its **Empretec Programme** – currently operational in 32 countries – UNCTAD is helping developing countries *build practical entrepreneurial skills and capabilities “on the ground”*.

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- Through its own research and consultation with experts, UNCTAD has developed an **entrepreneurship policy framework with six priority areas** that have a direct impact on entrepreneurial activity: (1) *general entrepreneurship policy*; (2) *awareness and network building*; (3) *access to finance*; (4) *entrepreneurship education and skills*; (5) *innovation and technology upgrading*; and (6) *the regulatory environment*.
- A **coordinated approach** and the **right sequencing** of policy within – and between – these six areas of the **entrepreneurship policy framework** will help policymakers to formulate and implement policies that correspond to national priorities and facilitate the move towards a more dynamic and entrepreneurial economy and society.
- Take, for example, this year’s theme: entrepreneurship education. Econometric evidence suggests that – in economies with a weak *regulatory environment* – *entrepreneurship education* generates diminishing returns; whereas in economies with a favourable *regulatory environment* – where training-induced skills and intentions can be translated more easily into action – *entrepreneurship education* generates increasing returns. This, for example, cautions against investing in *entrepreneurship education* programmes in isolation if other aspects of the entrepreneurship policy framework are not yet adequately addressed.
- At UNCTAD, we will work with our Member States to further refine this framework, to collect best practices, and to convert these into practical and actionable guidelines.

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- Due to UNCTAD’s preparations for this year’s theme – as mandated by the Experts from our Member States – entrepreneurship education is one of the areas in which our work on the policy framework is most advanced to date. I am therefore delighted, to share with you some key messages from our research in this area:
- Entrepreneurship education policy should be reflected in national economic and social development plans and poverty reduction strategies. It should be embedded at all levels of education (primary, secondary, higher and vocational education) and promote behavioural, experiential and innovative learning approaches. Finally, entrepreneurship education also needs to be supported outside the formal education system.

- I have no doubt that we will revisit many of these points in informative and stimulating debates and presentations over the coming 3 days. I now wish you a fruitful meeting and invite you all to share your expertise with us as you hear more about UNCTAD's entrepreneurship policy framework in the area of entrepreneurship education over the coming days.

I thank you very much.