

# **UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development 2012**

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## **Item 6: Report on the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment for Development**

by

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect views of the United Nations.

Chairperson,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to report to you on the outcome of the multi-year expert meetings on investment for development. As per the TDB decision TD/B/55/9 dated 1 October 2008, the multi-year expert meeting on investment for development aimed at "*assisting all developing countries in designing and implementing effective and active policies to boost productive capacities and international competitiveness*". In particular, the multi-year expert meeting was given the task "*to shed light on key and emerging issues related to national and international policies on investment, private as well as public*".

Each session of the multi-year expert meeting aimed at contributing to the achievement of a "practical/actionable" outcome (as identified in paragraph 207 of the Accra Accord), including through the last of the four sessions of this multi-year expert meeting that was designed to "*pull together the findings of the three previous meetings*". Indeed, the four sessions contributed to the development of UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for sustainable development as per the following sequence.

The first session, which was held on 10-11 February 2009, dealt with "*The development dimension of international investment agreements*". In accordance with the decision of the 55th Trade and Development Board, the meeting addressed the development implications of the proliferation of investment agreements, and identified and clarified key issues to be further analyzed in order to enhance the capacity of developing countries to harness the development potential of IIAs. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Gregorio Canales Ramirez from Mexico, assisted by Mr. Joannes Tndjung from Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by 222 participants from 82 countries. Over two-thirds of them were from developing countries, and 18.5% were from LDCs, illustrating the pertinence of the issue considered for development. 60 women participated in the meeting, accounting for 28% of the participants. More than half of the participants (51%) were not based in Geneva. These representatives from capitals took time off and travelled at their own expenses – another indication of the relevance of the topic considered. Among the participants were also IIAs negotiators, representatives from the missions in Geneva, as well as from international organization, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector – comforting the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for international investment agreements in the UN system.

To conclude with procedural matters, you may wish to recall that the meeting was praised for its novel format, allowing experts to directly exchange experiences and views on key and emerging issues and best practices, guided by questions in three topic areas – an approach that was labeled as "collective advisory services".

The second session of the MYEM was held from 3 to 5 January 2010. This session dealt with "*Foreign direct investment and domestic investment and development: enhancing productive capacities*". In accordance with the decision of the 55th Trade and Development Board, the meeting discussed the development impact of both domestic investment activities and, in particular, foreign direct investment, including the interaction between the two. It also analyzed public-private partnerships. The impact of

these activities on productive capacities in the food and agricultural sector, was also assessed. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Kenichi Suganuma from Japan, assisted by Mr. Arturo Rivera Magana from Mexico.

168 participants attended the meeting, of which 102 (close to 61%) were from 56 developing countries and 9 least developed countries. Participation was at high-level with a dozen of Ambassadors in attendance. In addition to the 65 countries represented, 8 international organizations and 4 NGOs followed the debates, further illustrating the coordination and cooperation with other international organizations working in the area. Indeed four colleagues representing various international organizations were among the 16 panel members, which counted 8 panelists from developing countries. 25 of the participants to the meeting were women.

The third session of the MYEM, from 2-4 February 2011, examined the partnership between public and private investment in areas of particular importance for development. The meeting addressed the development implications of public investments in promoting pro-poor growth and sustainable development, boosting countries' competitiveness, generating employments and reducing social and income disparities. In particular, the meeting examined how policies at the national, regional and international level can boost public-private partnerships in key industries for the purpose of, among others, promoting infrastructure development, mitigating climate change and increasing agriculture production. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Evan Garcia from the Philippines, attended by Mr. Brad Stilwell from the United States of America.

The meeting was attended by 121 experts, representing 57 countries, 8 international organizations, 4 specialized agencies and 3 non-governmental organizations. Close to 65% of the participants came from developing countries and women accounted for 32% of them. 17 panelists were invited to inform the meeting, 10 of them from developing countries of which two were from LDCs.

The fourth session of the MYEM was held from 5 to 6 December 2011. It pulled 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. It also served as a preparatory step towards UNCTAD XIII. Mr. Lucius Wasescha from Switzerland chaired the meeting, assisted by Mr. Wamkele Mene from South Africa as rapporteur.

128 experts participated in the meeting representing a total 53 countries, including 41 developing countries and 7 LDCs. In addition, five international organisations, seven specialized agencies and three non-governmental organisations were represented. Overall, 65% of the participants were from developing and transition economies and 24% were women participants. The panel was comprised of 21 eminent experts, 8 of whom were women.

Ms. Frischkopf will present in more detail, on behalf of Ambassador Lucius Wasescha, the report of the fourth session of this multi-year expert meeting.

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Excellences,  
Distinguished delegates,  
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Allow me to briefly summarize the achievement under this cycle, and highlight their effective contributions to the relevant dispositions of the Accra Accord, in particular its paragraph 207.

In organizing the four session of the multi-year expert meeting, we thrived to ensure a balanced distribution from capitals in different regions. 20% of the participants to the multi-year expert meeting were from Africa, 23% from developing Asia, 17% from developing America, 17% were from developed countries. 23% were representing various organizations or the private sector.

We inaugurated a new format to enable all experts to participate fully in the meeting, and we intend to generalize to the next cycle of expert meeting on investment, innovation and entrepreneurship the format that was labeled by participants as "collective advisory services".

We continued encouraging experts to share experiences and best practices through various means. Most of the experts that participated in the first session of the multi-year expert meeting, which dealt with development implications of the proliferation of investment agreements, were encouraged to take part and contribute to the IIAs network of experts, and to the 2010 and 2012 IIAs conferences. All experts having taken part to the multi-year expert meeting are part of the Division's World Investment Network and many of them participated to our World Investment Forum.

The multi-year expert meeting generated an actionable outcome, as called for by the Accra Accord paragraph 207. Indeed, UNCTAD's new *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development* is a product of this Multi-Year Expert Meetings, benefiting from expert inputs and evolving through the UNCTAD consensus building pillar and discussions among member States. As the IPFSD was already alluded to in the Secretary-General's opening remarks this morning, and since it was already brought to the attention of member States during the last TDB, I will not go into further detail on this instrument – except to say that we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback on its approach so far, including from the highest policy levels such as the President of Tunisia, and that it is already being put to good use in reviews of investment policies at the national and regional level.

Lastly, the multi-year expert meeting facilitated networking working among experts and will continue to do so. To this end, the Division developed its IPFSD hub, a new online platform, which currently features a discussion forum on key IPFSD related issues as well as an online version of all three elements of the IPFSD. This online version offers an easy-to-use comment function, which allows for the sharing of experiences and views of IIA stakeholders, as one of the steps to ensure the “living nature” of the document.

Thank you for your attention.