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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade,
Services and Development**
Seventh session
Geneva, 1–2 May 2019
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. Enhancing productive capacity through services.
4. Adoption of the 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 and organization of work**

2. The substantive topic for this session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development was approved by the extended Bureau of the Trade and Development Board on 4 October 2018. The provisional agenda of the session is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/19

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Item 3

Enhancing productive capacity through services

3. Enhancing productive capacity in developing countries and the least developed countries is necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including on poverty reduction (Goal 1), sustainable economic growth (Goal 8), reducing inequality (Goal 10) and increasing the exports of developing countries and doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports (Goal 17). Progress in implementing the targets under these Goals will be reviewed in July 2019 by United Nations Member States at the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

4. UNCTAD, in *The Least Developed Countries Report 2006: Developing Productive Capacities*, defined productive capacities as “the productive resources, entrepreneurial capabilities and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop”.

5. The seventh session of the Expert Meeting will focus on enhancing productive capacity through services. Representing the highest amount of economic activity in the world, the services sector contributes a growing share of gross domestic product, trade and employment, and benefits productive capacity enhancement by providing productive resources, as inputs to other sectors and by creating production linkages. Experts will consider the role of services in the economy and trade and examine the theory and empirical evidence regarding the contribution of services as a means of enhancing productive capacity. They will also share practices and experiences in leveraging this role in their countries. International cooperation and partnership, including South–South cooperation, conducive to enhancing productive capacity through services will also be discussed. The discussions will aim to assist developing countries and the least developed countries to identify the policies and institutions necessary to allow a country to enhance its productive capacity through services.

6. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note, TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/20. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare case studies 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.4/20

Enhancing productive capacity through services

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 Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the Expert Meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting, addressed to Ms. Liping Zhang at unctad-tncdb@unctad.org.