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Trade and Development Commission

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development

Twelfth session

Geneva, 15 and 16 April 2026

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. Servicification for economic diversification.
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. Annotations

Item 1

Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The substantive topic for the twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 15 December 2025.¹

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/34

Provisional agenda and annotations

¹ See also TD/B/EX(78)/2.

Item 3

Servicification for economic diversification

3. The twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will focus on servicification for economic diversification. The meeting will provide an opportunity for experts to exchange views and good practices on how servicification is an important means to pursue structural transformation, productivity growth, economic diversification and enhanced resilience. At the meeting, trends and examples of servicification across countries will be presented, and discussions will focus on the impact of recent trends on digitalization, knowledge-intensive services and trade policy, including opportunities and challenges for developing economies.

4. Sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting Trade, Services and Development examine the role of trade in services in supporting economic diversification, consistent with the Geneva Consensus (TD/561/Add.2). In paragraph 21 of the Geneva Consensus, the “growing significance of services as a new frontier for structural transformation, particularly for developing countries seeking to diversify their economies” is underscored. The discussion will be in line with the objectives of paragraph 80.14 of the Geneva Consensus on promoting productive activities in developing countries through trade in services.

5. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note entitled “Servicification for economic diversification” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/35).

6. Under the agenda item and as a follow-up to requests from member States in previous sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting, at the twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, a segment of the discussion will be dedicated to data needs and gaps related to servicification. How improved data can enhance understanding of servicification and support policymaking will be explored, notably in the area of trade policy, to enable developing economies to harness servicification for economic diversification and development. Findings from the discussion will align with the objectives of paragraph 80.15 of the Geneva Consensus on improving the collection, accessibility and use of services trade data to inform policy decisions.

7. Member States are invited to nominate experts from the public and private sectors. Nominated experts are encouraged to participate in all sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development to ensure continuity. Each member State is encouraged to nominate up to five experts to participate.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/35 Servicification for economic diversification

Item 4

Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. Participants at 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.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the 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 TSCE@un.org.