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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues
Expert Meeting on the Effectiveness of Foreign Direct Investment Policy Measures
Geneva, 25-27 June 2003
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Effectiveness of foreign direct investment policy measures
4. Investment Policy Review of Nepal
5. 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 Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.13/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Effectiveness of foreign direct investment policy measures

3. The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues decided to convene an Expert Meeting on the Effectiveness of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy Measures. UNCTAD has been conducting investment policy reviews (IPRs), and building on this experience, experts will exchange views and experiences on the effectiveness of policies to attract and benefit from FDI. There will be presentations by private sector participants on the effectiveness of the policies recommended by the IPRs and what they consider effective policies in attracting FDI.

4. Presentations by experts will contribute to a better understanding of the policies that may contribute to the successful building of national capacities, and of the major concerns of developing countries in this area from the investment and development perspectives. In this connection, the Expert Meeting will consider the development concerns and the issues that confront developing countries in attaining national objectives in terms of seeking FDI and the attendant package of benefit including technology, managerial know-how and privileged access to world market for the attainment of development goals.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

6. Experts may also wish to refer to the investment policy reviews conducted by UNCTAD. These are available for Egypt (1999), Uzbekistan (1999), Uganda (2000), Peru (2000), Mauritius (2001), Ecuador (2001), Ethiopia (2002), United Republic of Tanzania (2002), Botswana (2002), Ghana (2002), Lesotho (2003), and Nepal (2003). The reports may be downloaded from the UNCTAD Internet website (www.unctad.org/ipr).

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.13/2 "Effectiveness of foreign direct investment policy measures" Issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 4: Investment Policy Review of Nepal

7. The secretariat and a high-level representative from Nepal will introduce the Investment Policy Review of Nepal, and this will be followed by a review panel and a general discussion.

Documentation

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/MISC.2003/1 Investment Policy Review of Nepal

Item 5: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

8. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its next session. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairperson, 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 pages) as contributions to the work of the Meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. Papers, which will draw on experts' and private sector experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. An expert paper may address one or more of the following issues:

- What recent changes in policy has the expert's country made that have been effective in attracting FDI? What remain the key policy-related obstacles to attracting FDI?
- What mechanisms have been found to be effective in monitoring effectiveness of country FDI policies?
- What are private sector views on effective FDI policy measures? How do these differ from government policy?
- What examples can be provided for FDI-led improvement in country competitiveness and achievement of national development goals?

Experts are requested to submit papers by 1 June 2003 to: Mr. Khalil Hamdani, Deputy Director, Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Fax: +41 22 907 0197, E-mail: Khalil.Hamdani@unctad.org