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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related  
Financial Issues

Expert meeting on comparing best practices for creating  
an environment conducive to maximizing development  
benefits, economic growth and investment in developing  
countries and countries with economies in transition  
Geneva, 24–25 September 2007  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS<sup>1</sup>**

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Best practices for creating an environment conducive to development, growth and investment
4. Adoption of the outcome of the meeting

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

<sup>1</sup> This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of processing delays.

## 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

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

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/COM.2/EM.22/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

### Item 3. Best practices for creating an environment conducive to development, growth and investment

3. The forty-first executive session of the Trade and Development Board decided to convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting on “comparing best practices for creating an environment conducive to maximizing development benefits, economic growth and investment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition” within the framework of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues.

4. Creating an environment conducive to development, growth and investment is a multifaceted matter that involves a myriad of national and international policies. A comparative analysis of country practices within the framework of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues requires focus on policies aimed at attracting and benefiting from foreign direct investment (FDI).

5. The meeting will focus on policies aimed at maximizing the development benefits from FDI. It is proposed that the expert meeting, as a first step in this endeavour, consider case studies of best practices in meeting five strategic FDI challenges, as they have emerged from UNCTAD’s investment policy reviews and other work. These key issue areas are suggested to focus on: (a) devising a systematic competitiveness policy for FDI; (b) upgrading efficiency for those seeking FDI; (c) attracting FDI to small markets; (d) improving the investment framework for FDI; and (e) the special challenges of attracting FDI to post-conflict countries.

6. Experts will be requested to elaborate on and add to the key issue areas identified and the “best practices” case studies approach, and to present their own national cases for comparison and exchanges during the expert meeting. Experts are also asked to shed light on other areas of concern and future consideration in this regard.

7. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat will prepare an issues paper on “comparing best practices for creating an environment conducive to development benefits, growth and investment”. The issues paper will analyze five thematic areas and provide snapshot examples of best policy practices (elaborating on the objective, methods used and results achieved) for each of these areas, with illustrations of successful cases at national, sub-national and regional levels. This paper will be based on existing UNCTAD empirical work and policy analysis, including the investment policy reviews and the *World Investment Reports*, as well as the wider work of UNCTAD with respect to trade and development.

8. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers related to their countries' experiences in one or more of the thematic areas identified above. These papers will be used for comparison and exchanges of best practices at the meeting. They will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

*Documentation*

TD/B/COM.2/EM.22/2 Comparing best practices for creating an environment conducive to development benefits, growth and investment. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat.

**Item 4. Adoption of the outcome of the meeting**

9. The expert meeting will adopt its outcome, which will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its next session. The outcome can take the form of a Chairperson's summary.

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