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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation
and Development
Expert Meeting on ICT Solutions to Facilitate
Trade at Border Crossings and Ports
Geneva, 16–18 October 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. ICT Solutions to facilitate trade at border crossings and ports
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 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. The Expert Meeting will have three days, from 16 to 18 October 2006, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.27/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: ICT Solutions to facilitate trade at border crossings and ports

3. The Expert Meeting is being held further to a decision taken by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its tenth session.

4. Recent developments in international trade and transport have led to an increased use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by traders and transport service providers. This has a significant bearing on Customs and other operations at border crossings and in ports. In the context of the Doha Round, Members of the World Trade Organization have now started text-based negotiations on trade facilitation. Possible commitments resulting from these negotiations will invariably be linked to the availability of trade- and transport-related ICT tools in developing countries.

5. ICTs are expected to play an increasing role in the design and implementation of Customs modernization programmes and other trade and transport facilitation measures. ICT applications can reduce waiting times at border crossings and at ports, secure appropriate processing of fees and Customs duties, simplify formalities, and provide timely information to transport operators. The use of ICTs in areas such as Customs automation, electronic documentation and advance information in logistics is likely to continue to grow in coming years. Developing countries must be proactive in reaping full benefits from ICT tools available worldwide to reduce transaction costs and enhance supply capacities.

6. The Expert Meeting will analyse recent trends in the use of ICT in global trade and transport, as well as the resulting requirements for Customs modernization and other trade and transport facilitation measures. These requirements will be related to available ICT tools and their applicability to the realities of developing countries and least developed countries. It will further discuss capacity building and technical assistance requirements to implement specific technology-based trade facilitation measures, including those concerning the

institutional, commercial, legal and operational environment for Customs and other operations at border crossings and in ports.

7. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note on ICT Solutions to facilitate trade at border crossings and ports (TD/B/COM.3/EM.27/2). 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.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.27/2 ICT Solutions to facilitate trade at border crossings and ports

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

8. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its eleventh session in 2007. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

MONDAY 16 October 2006	TUESDAY 17 October 2006	WEDNESDAY 18 October 2006
<i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i>	<i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i>	<i>(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</i>
Plenary	Informals	Informals
Opening statement	Item 3: (continued)	Item 3: (continued)
Item 1: Election of officers		
Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the Meeting		
Introduction of item 3		
Informals		
Item 3: ICT Solutions to facilitate trade at border crossings and ports		
<i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i>	<i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i>	<i>(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.)</i>
Informals	Informals	Informals
Item 3: (continued)	Item 3: (continued)	Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting
		Plenary (closing)
		Item 4: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

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