



**United Nations
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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Best Practices and Policy Options in the Promotion
of SME-TNC Business Linkages
Geneva, 6–8 November 2006
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Best practices and policy options in the promotion of SME -TNC business linkages
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. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.28/1

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: Best practices and policy options in the promotion of SME-TNC business linkages

3. The Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development agreed at its ninth session (Geneva, 22–25 February 2005) that the establishment of business linkages between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on the one hand and transnational corporations (TNCs) on the other represents an emerging opportunity to reap the potential benefits of global trade. These linkages may represent one of the best ways for SMEs to enhance their competitiveness by accessing a set of critical missing assets, such as access to international markets, finance, technology, management skills and specialized knowledge.

4. Host Governments in developing countries have an essential role to play in ensuring that mutually beneficial linkages are established and that the positive impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) on local productive capacities is enhanced. In this respect, the Expert Meeting will identify effective policies for the promotion and implementation of business linkages. Experts will also discuss a checklist of principles based on best practices to encourage the replication of successful programmes for the benefit of interested Governments, TNCs and SME support institutions.

5. On the basis of the outcome of the Meeting, the UNCTAD secretariat will complete a checklist of key success factors in setting up and sequencing the implementation of a business linkage programme. It should complement earlier UNCTAD work that focused on policy formulation and analysis, and facilitate demand for technical cooperation in this area.

6. Presentations by experts will contribute to a better understanding of the drivers of TNC-SME linkages programmes and suggest the implications for policy formulation and development assistance. Based on successful experiences, participants from both the public and the private sector will also highlight how Governments can introduce business linkages programmes involving the active and voluntary participation of TNCs.

7. 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. The Expert Meeting will benefit from the findings of UNCTAD's survey on "Best practices in the promotion of business linkages from a policy perspective" and from the lessons learned from UNCTAD's technical assistance projects in this area.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.28/2

“Best practices and policy options in the promotion of SME -TNC business linkages – Issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat”

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 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 five 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' experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers by 1 October 2006 to: Ms. Fulvia Farinelli, Investment and Enterprise Competitiveness Branch, Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Fax: +41 22 907 0122, E-mail: Fulvia.Farinelli@unctad.org.

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