



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board

Trade and Development Commission

Expert meeting on trade and climate change: trade and
investment opportunities and challenges under the
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Geneva, 1–3 April 2009

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. Trade and investment opportunities and challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
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 Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum Rapporteur.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the meeting is reproduced in section I above. The meeting will have three days, from 1 to 3 April 2009, to complete its work. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.1/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Trade and investment opportunities and challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

3. At its fifty-fifth session, the Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a single-year expert meeting on trade and climate change (TD/B/55/9, paras. 41–43). In accordance with the terms of reference, the expert meeting will focus on the trade and investment opportunities and challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

4. Global concerns over the impact of climate change, in particular the adverse effects on developing countries, as well as the related significant economic costs associated with inaction, have put climate change very high on the international agenda. The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, sets binding commitments for industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008–2012. It provides important investment opportunities for developing countries through the CDM, which is one of the three “flexibility mechanisms” identified in the Kyoto Protocol that participating countries can use to meet their emissions reduction targets, in addition to strictly domestic mitigation measures. More importantly, CDM is the only mechanism that involves developing countries. Its purpose is to benefit both the investor and the host countries by contributing to sustainable development in the host developing countries and by allowing investor countries to meet their emissions reduction targets at the lowest possible cost by taking advantage of the lower marginal cost of reducing emissions in developing countries.

5. Against this background, discussions at the expert meeting are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the CDM, how this mechanism functions, what the CDM applications are and what their benefits are for developing countries. It will discuss the reasons that are limiting the number of developing countries able to benefit from it. Indeed, just four developing countries host approximately 70 per cent of the CDM projects. It will also explore possible ways to facilitate participation from developing countries and least developed countries in the CDM, as a means to further their sustainable development. In addition, it is also expected to make concrete recommendations on how to overcome the existing obstacles to greater CDM investment flows and to give guidance to UNCTAD’s work in this area, in accordance with the mandate contained in paragraph 100 of Accra Accord.

6. In order to facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session (TD/B/C.I/EM.1/2). In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on

the subject under discussion. These papers and several discussion notes will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.1/2 Trade and investment opportunities and challenges under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its first session in May 2009. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the 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 five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible, addressed to Mr. Lucas Assunção, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 02 47; e-mail: lucas.assuncao@unctad.org.



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Expert meeting on trade and climate change: trade and
investment opportunities and challenges under the
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Geneva, 27–29 April 2009

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

Corrigendum

The date of the meeting has been changed to 27–29 April 2009.
