



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission**  
**Tenth session**  
Geneva, 3–7 December 2018  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda  
**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

## Provisional agenda and annotations

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings:
  - (a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
  - (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
4. Investment and entrepreneurship for development
5. Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development
6. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board





**(b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting**

7. Under the agenda item, the Commission will consider the report of the thirty-fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.II/ISAR/87                      Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its thirty-fifth session

**Item 4**

**Investment and entrepreneurship for development**

8. There is a negative trend in foreign direct investment, with global foreign direct investment flows falling by 23 per cent in 2017 to \$1.43 trillion, down from \$1.87 trillion in 2016, and a slowdown in global value chains. This is of concern considering that foreign direct investment remains the largest external source of finance for developing economies (amounting to 39 per cent of their total incoming finance), and now accounts for only less than 25 per cent in structurally weak and most vulnerable economies (with a declining trend since 2012). Building on the conclusions of the 2014 through 2018 editions of the *World Investment Report*, at the session, the Committee will consider ways and means in which national and international investment policies can counter this trend, with a view towards creating the conditions for economic growth and prosperity in these countries.

9. In line with established practice of the Commission, its work will continue with the consideration of the investment policy reviews of Cabo Verde and Lebanon, which will provide a further opportunity to gather experiences and identify best practice policies in attracting investment for sustainable development.

*Documentation*

UNCTAD/WIR/2014–2018              *World Investment Report*, 2014–2018 editions

UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2018/2        *Investment Policy Review: Cabo Verde*

UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2017/11        *Investment Policy Review: Lebanon*

**Item 5**

**Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development**

10. Science, technology and innovation are important means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among other reasons, because of their potential to drive innovative entrepreneurship that delivers growth and productive employment. Networks of dynamic, innovative firms are also a key feature of successful productive diversification and industrialization strategies. Therefore, the development of science, technology and innovation capabilities among firms and entrepreneurs should be a focus of attention for policymakers. Under the agenda item, the Commission could consider policy experiences regarding the development of technological and innovative capabilities in developing countries (such as measures to address financial constraints, promote networks and clusters or leverage the opportunities created by the emerging digital economy), in order to promote the emergence of more technologically capable and innovative enterprises and, ultimately, raise productivity across all sectors of the economy. In order to facilitate the discussion of the agenda item, the secretariat has prepared a background document on the topic.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.II/39                              Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development

**Item 6**

**Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars**

11. Under the agenda item, the secretariat will report on progress made in promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD work in the areas covered by the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

**Item 7**

**Other business**

12. As per past practice, the Commission will be briefed by the secretariat on the latest developments on trends and policies in the area of investment and enterprise for development.

**Item 8**

**Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board**

13. The report of the tenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.

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