



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
19 February 2024

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Fourteenth session
Geneva, 29 April–3 May 2024
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The fourteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be held from 29 April to 3 May 2024. The role of the commissions, as subsidiary bodies of the Trade and Development Board and as defined in paragraph 121 of the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2), is to consider the reports of expert meetings and the synergies between the three pillars and the work of the subprogrammes of UNCTAD, as well as to conduct policy dialogue on one or two selected issues.

2. The topics of the substantive agenda items are investment facilitation for sustainable development and harnessing blockchain technologies for sustainable development. In addition, the Commission will review reports of expert meetings. Furthermore, the Commission will examine relevant activities implemented by the secretariat that have promoted and strengthened synergies among the three pillars.

Item 1

Election of officers

3. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission shall elect a Chair, five Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members: four members from lists A and C combined, two from list B and one from list D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

4. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation, the Bureau for the fourteenth session of the Commission will be as follows: a Chair from list A (Asia), a Rapporteur from list B, three Vice-Chairs from lists A and C combined, one Vice-Chair from list B and one Vice-Chair from list D.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 11 January 2024. A programme of work will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/50

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development

6. Under the agenda item, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will review and discuss the outcome of the tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/29 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its tenth session

Item 4

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

7. Under the agenda item, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its fortieth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/ISAR/107 Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its fortieth session

Item 5

Investment facilitation for sustainable development

8. Investment facilitation helps investors establish and operate their businesses through the provision of information, transparent rules and regulations and streamlined administrative procedures, among other measures. Digital government tools, such as information portals and online single windows, play an important role in the implementation of investment facilitation policies. Investment facilitation currently has an important role in international policy discussions at the plurilateral, regional and bilateral levels, and it is a key priority for many national Governments.

9. Building on the long-standing policy advisory work of UNCTAD on investment facilitation, including as part of investment policy reviews, and experience across more than 30 countries with the implementation of digital business and investment facilitation tools, the meeting will be informed by a background note prepared by the secretariat. In the note, the focus will be on presenting key investment facilitation implementation priorities, elaborating on challenges and opportunities and showing how digital business and investment facilitation can form the foundation for effective electronic government (e-government) and effectively promote investment in the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. The Commission will review best practices in the implementation of business and investment facilitation policies in support of sustainable development, as well as the way forward in the use of digital business and investment facilitation tools to develop wider e-government practices.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/51 Business and investment facilitation: Stepping stones to digital government

Item 6

Harnessing blockchain technologies for sustainable development

11. Over the years, user awareness of blockchain technologies has grown, the technical sophistication of these technologies has increased, and the number of use cases has expanded. Some Governments have been exploring blockchain in pilot projects, yet many struggle to understand the unique features and advantages of blockchain over traditional database systems. While blockchain is commonly associated with cryptocurrencies, its potential

extends to various sectors that could contribute to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the Commission is invited to explore options for harnessing blockchain technologies for sustainable development. The Commission will also examine the challenges confronting developing countries in the application of blockchain technology and solutions to build capacities for blockchain innovation according to the developmental level of countries. Discussion at the Commission will allow the identification of potential areas for international collaboration.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/52 Harnessing blockchain technologies for sustainable development

Item 7
Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

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

Item 8
Other business

13. In accordance with past practice, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be briefed by the secretariat on the latest developments in trends and policies in the area of investment and enterprise for development.

Item 9
Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

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