United Nations

TD/B/C.II/54

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
24 February 2025

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Fifteenth session
Geneva, 5–9 May 2025
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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8. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The fifteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be held from 5 to 9 May 2025. 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 topic of the substantive agenda item is investing in the digital economy. 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.

Please recycle

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 fifteenth session of the Commission will be as follows: a Chair from list D, a Rapporteur from list A (Asia), three Vice-Chairs from lists A and C combined and two Vice-Chairs from list B.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 3 February 2025. A programme of work will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/54	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 eleventh 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.4/32	Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its eleventh 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 forty-first session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/ISAR/111	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its forty-first session

Item 5
Investing in the digital economy

8. The digital economy has become a significant driver of global economic growth, encompassing sectors such as electronic commerce, digital platforms, artificial intelligence applications and cloud computing services. These swift changes are reshaping industries and transforming traditional business models, opening vast opportunities for structural transformation, as well as for inclusive and sustainable development. However, several factors, such as inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources and suboptimal foreign direct investment, contribute to a widening digital divide, posing significant challenges for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This divide should be bridged for inclusive economic development and to address global challenges such as poverty and unemployment.

9. This requires significant public and private investment, both domestically and through foreign direct investment. Governments, private enterprises and international organizations should collaborate to promote investment, encourage innovation and create an enabling environment for digital growth, particularly in underserved regions. International investment by digital multinational enterprises can play a pivotal role in supporting digital development.

10. This topic builds on extensive UNCTAD research on investment, including the *World Investment Report 2017*, which examined the implications of the digital economy for international investment and policy. Subsequent editions, in 2020 and 2021, contained discussions on how digitalization and Industry 4.0 technologies are reshaping international production and global value chains. Since these reports were issued, digital technologies have continued to advance, notably with the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence applications, placing new demands on digital infrastructure skills and services.

11. The session will convene a high-level panel to discuss the nexus between the digital economy and international investment for development. It will examine the drivers and determinants of digital foreign direct investment, national policy frameworks for promoting and regulating international investment in the digital economy, and the role of investment policies in digital development strategies. It will consider best practices and practical recommendations for policymakers on promoting investment in the digital economy. This includes discussions on incentives and regulatory frameworks that attract digital multinational enterprises, while ensuring their activities contribute to sustainable development, and address the unique needs of local economies. A brief note will be shared ahead of the session to help shape discussions.

In-session documentation

Item 6
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 7
Other business

Item 8
Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

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