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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
Seventh session
Geneva, 17–19 June 2019
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. Responsible and sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility and enterprise development.
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 Multi-year 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 chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/19

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3**Responsible and sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility and enterprise development**

3. The Trade and Development Board, at its sixty-fifth session, part II, determined that the topic for this session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting would be responsible and sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility and enterprise development. The meeting will discuss responsible and sustainable entrepreneurship practices and supporting government policies, including in the context of facilitating entrepreneurship development, as well as entrepreneurship policies to enable economically disadvantaged groups, including women, youth and migrants.

4. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document entitled “Responsible and sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility and enterprise development”, which reviews inclusive approaches to business and entrepreneurship promotion. The meeting will discuss how the sustainable and inclusive dimension of enterprise development may be enhanced by promoting responsible business practices, corporate social responsibility and inclusive entrepreneurship, to facilitate progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting will review examples of inclusive business models and how awareness of good sustainable and inclusive business practices may be facilitated. In addition, discussions will elaborate on policies aimed at strengthening the role of entrepreneurship in inclusive growth and sustainable development.

5. The meeting will also discuss how the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework may be adapted and expanded to address the challenges of sustainable and inclusive growth, including through the creation of employment opportunities and engendering of inclusive outcomes for various disadvantaged groups, such as women, youth, migrants, persons with disabilities and the poor. Policy interventions can play an important role in supporting people from all backgrounds in considering entrepreneurship as a career choice and making it possible for them to thrive. Proposed policy interventions, with specific modifications for promoting inclusive entrepreneurship for sustainable development, are grouped under the six pillars of the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, namely formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy, optimizing the regulatory environment, enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development, facilitating technology exchange and innovation, improving access to finance and promoting awareness and networking.

6. Finally, an update will be provided of UNCTAD work related to the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, in Cameroon and Ethiopia, and the meeting will consider practical examples of policy interventions to support women, youth and migrant entrepreneurs in these countries and elsewhere. Finally, experts will suggest a way forward and possible tailored government responses based on needs assessments of each target disadvantaged group.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/20

Responsible and sustainable business practices and
corporate social responsibility and enterprise development**Item 4****Adoption of the report of the meeting**

7. The report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at its next session. The meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to prepare brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting, which will draw on national and private sector experiences. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. The presentation of inclusive entrepreneurship case studies is welcome.

Experts are requested to submit papers by 30 May 2019. Papers should be forwarded to Ms. Fiorina Mugione, Chief, Entrepreneurship Section, Enterprise Branch, Division on Investment and Enterprise, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10; email: fiorina.mugione@unctad.org.
