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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
Twelfth session
Geneva, 4 and 5 May 2026
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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II. Annotations

Item 1

Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The substantive topic for the twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development was approved by the Trade and Development Board, through a silence procedure that concluded on 18 December 2025, and the decision formalized at the seventy-eighth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, held from 4 to 6 February 2026.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/33

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3

Investment in artificial intelligence

3. Building on the work of the Division on Investment and Enterprise on investment in the digital economy, including its analytical work in the *World Investment Report 2025: International Investment in the Digital Economy*,¹ the digital infrastructure investment catalyser initiative² launched at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and ongoing monitoring by the division of investment trends and policies, participants at the Multi-year Expert Meeting will examine how evolving global investment patterns are reshaping opportunities for developing countries to attract and benefit from foreign direct investment in strategic sectors, such as artificial intelligence.

4. The sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development recognized that many developing countries face persistent barriers to fully participate in and benefit from digital transformation, including due to inadequate digital infrastructure and limited access to adequate financing and investment. In this context, the Geneva Consensus calls for the institution to “continue to support the development of an enabling environment at all levels so that developing countries can mobilize resources through trade and investment to support their digital transformation and the availability of digital public goods, infrastructure and services” (TD/561/Add.2, para. 80.47).

5. The twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meetings on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will provide an opportunity for experts to exchange views and good practices related to the policy implications of the evolving investment environment, namely global overlapping trends such as competition for investment in strategic sectors, including technologies related to artificial intelligence and an enabling infrastructure, strengthened regional blocs and rerouting of global supply chains as a result of uncertainty.

6. To inform the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note entitled “International investment in a turbulent era: Navigating geopolitics, uncertainty and artificial intelligence-related investment” (TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/34).

7. Member States are invited to nominate experts from the public and the private sectors. Nominated experts are encouraged to participate throughout the twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development to ensure continuity. Each member State is encouraged to nominate up to five experts to participate.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/34

International investment in a turbulent era: Navigating geopolitics, uncertainty and artificial intelligence-related investment

Item 4

Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its twelfth session will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission for consideration at its next session. Participants at the expert meeting may wish to authorize the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

¹ UNCTAD, 2025, *World Investment Report 2025: International Investment in the Digital Economy* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.25.II.D.23, Geneva).

² Initiative of the International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Children’s Fund and UNCTAD.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers will be made available at the session in the form and language in which they are received.

Papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting, addressed to diaeinfo@unctad.org.
