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on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
Fourth session
Geneva, 25–26 January 2012
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Developments and challenges in commodity markets: current situation and outlook
4. A review of UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, including small commodity producers, in their efforts to address commodity challenges and promote development gains from commodity production and trade
5. Adoption of the report of the meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the 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 fourth session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. The expert meeting will have two days to complete its work (25–26 January 2012). The provisional schedule of meetings for the two days is attached to this document. Detailed programmes will be available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/17 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Developments and challenges in commodity markets: current situation and outlook

3UU. The Accra Accord, in paragraph 91, states, “UNCTAD should continue to play a key role, with appropriate coordination with other international and regional actors, including with relevant international commodity bodies, to address the trade and development problems associated with the commodity economy, giving due attention to all commodity sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, metals and minerals and oil and gas. In this context, it should monitor developments and challenges in commodity markets and address links between international commodity trade and national development, particularly with regard to poverty reduction.” Accordingly, the expert meeting will monitor developments and challenges in commodity markets, giving due attention to key commodity sectors and consider their development implications as well as emerging issues such as the green economy, climate change and technology.

4. The discussion on this topic, which will include presentations by experts and representatives of relevant international organizations and commodity bodies, will serve to put into focus – and inform UNCTAD member States about – the salient developments in key commodity sectors and markets from a development perspective. The discussions will provide a context for appraising the opportunities and challenges arising from the current developments in the commodity markets and provide outlook on possible future developments and challenges facing commodity-dependent developing countries.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/19 Recent developments in key commodity markets: trends and challenges

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat will prepare a background note entitled “Recent developments in key commodity markets: trends and challenges”. The document will review recent market developments in key commodity markets, including agriculture, energy, and metals and minerals. It will highlight short- and medium-term price trends, factors affecting supply and demand, and trade. It will also identify some of the main challenges facing commodity dependent developing countries in these sectors.

Item 4. A review of UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, including small commodity producers, in their efforts to address commodity challenges and promote development gains from commodity production and trade

6. The Accra Accord, in paragraph 93 (a), states that UNCTAD should “assist commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly small commodity producers, in their efforts to: develop national commodity strategies, including mainstream commodity policies into their national and regional development strategies; build supply-side capacity and attain competitiveness; move up value chains and diversify commodity sectors; comply with public and private international trade standards; access commodity information and databases; take advantage of export opportunities for commodities in emerging markets; assist developing countries, upon request, in building human and institutional capacities; assist developing countries, on request, to promote and improve transparency and accountability in the public, private and corporate sectors in order to enable the countries concerned to maximize the benefits that accrue to them from the extractive industries, taking into account, where appropriate, the implementation of relevant initiatives on extractive industries; establish effective marketing systems and support frameworks for small commodity producers, including economically viable safety net programmes; and develop commodity financing and risk management schemes (including commodity exchanges). In carrying out this work, UNCTAD should avoid duplication and therefore work in coordination with other relevant actors already active in this area.”

7. The Accra Accord, in paragraph 93 (b), further states that UNCTAD should “promote intergovernmental cooperation in the field of commodities and consensus-building on ways of integrating commodity policies into national, regional and international development and poverty reduction strategies; trade-related policies and instruments for resolving commodity problems; and investment and financial policies for accessing financial resources for commodity-based development, including with respect to ODA, Aid for Trade and other possibilities”. In paragraph 93 (c), it states that UNCTAD should “contribute to building effective multi-stakeholder partnerships with a view to identifying innovative approaches to resolving commodity-related problems”.

8. The discussion on this topic will include an assessment of UNCTAD’s activities in the area of assistance to commodity-dependent developing countries (including small commodity producers) by stakeholders consisting of programme funders and representatives from beneficiary countries. This should enable UNCTAD to further enhance the effectiveness of its assistance to developing countries, especially least developed countries and commodity-dependent developing countries, and boost the outcomes of the programmes it implements. It should also help to focus UNCTAD and donors on the priority areas that have a direct impact on commodity trade and development.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/18 Review of UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, including small commodity producers, in their efforts to address commodity challenges and promote development gains from commodity production and trade

9. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat will prepare a background note entitled “Review of UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, including small commodity producers, in their efforts to address commodity challenges and promote development gains from commodity production and trade”. The document will provide information on UNCTAD’s activities during the Accra mandate period in the areas of research and policy analysis, intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings, capacity-building and technical cooperation activities to assist low-income commodity-dependent developing countries to generate sufficient gains from commodity trade to relieve financing constraints and enable them to launch their economies on a sustained growth path of rising income and poverty reduction.

Item 5. Adoption of the report of the meeting

10. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The expert 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: trade and development implications of developments in commodity markets and technical cooperation activities

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers, which should draw on the experts' experience, may address one or more of the following issues:

- What have been the drivers of price trends in recent years in commodity markets and what are the opportunities and challenges faced by commodity-dependent developing countries stemming from these trends?
- What are the relevant partnerships that can strengthen the contribution of commodities to development in commodity-dependent developing countries? How can such partnerships relate to national initiatives?
- How could commodity-dependent developing countries working together with development partners enhance national level initiatives to promote development gains from commodity trade
- How could commodity export-dependent developing countries be supported to utilize effectively the opportunities offered by current higher commodity prices to initiate a process of sustained economic growth

For more information, contact:

Samuel Gayi
Head, Special Unit on Commodities
Office No. E-9030
UNCTAD
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Tel.: +41 22 917 2131
Fax.: +41 22 917 0509
E-mail: samuel.gayi@unctad.org

Provisional meeting schedule

Wednesday 25 January 2012	Thursday 26 January 2012
<p><i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Plenary Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers</p> <p>Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p>Item 3: Developments and challenges in commodity markets: current situation and outlook</p>	<p><i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 4: Review of UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, including small commodity producers, in their efforts to address commodity challenges and promote development gains from commodity production and trade</p> <p>- Agricultural sector</p>
<p><i>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 3 (cont.): Developments and challenges in commodity markets: current situation and outlook</p> <p>- Agricultural commodities - Oil & gas and minerals & metals commodities</p>	<p><i>(3 p.m.–5:30 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 4 (cont.): Review of UNCTAD activities to assist commodity-dependent developing countries, including small commodity producers, in their efforts to address commodity challenges and promote development gains from commodity production and trade</p> <p>- Oil & gas and minerals & metals sectors</p>
	<p><i>(5:30 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 5: Adoption of the report of the meeting</p>