



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
3 August 2017

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
Ninth session
Geneva, 12–13 October 2017
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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4. Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals
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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 ninth session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. The meeting will have two days, 12 and 13 October 2017, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the two days is attached in the annex to this document. A detailed programme will be available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/36 Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3

Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

3. The terms of reference for the ninth session of the multi-year expert meeting were approved at the thirty-first special session of the Trade and Development Board on 5 April 2017. The purpose of the meeting is to monitor the developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets, giving due attention to those commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries.

4. Discussion on these topics, which will include presentations by national experts and experts from relevant international organizations and commodity bodies, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society, will serve to inform States members of UNCTAD of important developments in key commodity sectors and markets from a development perspective.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared a background note entitled “Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development”. The note reviews recent developments in key commodity markets and analyses the factors that contributed to the trends in commodity prices observed in 2016. In general, 2016 marked the end of a five-year long downward trend in commodity prices. However, given falling commodity prices in the first four months of 2017, whether there has been a real reversal is questionable. The note therefore explores some policy issues related to the recent developments in global commodity markets and suggests recommendations that could help commodity-dependent developing countries achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/38 Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

Item 4

Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals

6. The terms of reference for the ninth session of the multi-year expert meeting indicate that the meeting should assess the trade and development-related implications of commodity dependence for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, giving due attention to commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries. They also state that the meeting will critically look at policy options that increase access to food and energy; foster value addition to commodities; and improve the management of natural resources through, inter alia, efficiency in resource use, while preserving the natural resource capital used to produce renewable resources.

7. To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared a background note entitled “Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals”. The note reviews the opportunities and challenges associated with commodity dependence and their implications for the achievement of the Goals by 2030 in commodity-dependent developing countries. It discusses the complex relationships between developments in the commodity sector and the Goals, and highlights the need for the more sustainable management of natural resources and the commodity sector in particular. The note provides policy suggestions that could help commodity-dependent developing countries improve their commodity sectors and achieve the Goals by 2030.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/37 Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals

Item 5

Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the multi-year expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The 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.

Input from experts: Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for achieving food security, commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

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' experiences, may address one or more of the following issues:

- (a) What have the drivers of price trends been in recent years in commodity markets, and what are the opportunities and challenges faced by commodity-dependent developing countries stemming from these trends?
- (b) How can trade in primary commodities make a positive contribution to development?
- (c) What mechanisms allow primary commodities to enhance trade and contribute to sustainable development?
- (d) What policy options do commodity-dependent developing countries have to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030?

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Annex

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development, ninth session: Provisional schedule

<i>Thursday</i> <i>12 October 2017</i>	<i>Friday</i> <i>13 October 2017</i>
<p><i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Opening plenary</p> <p>Opening statements</p> <p>Item 1 Election of officers</p> <p>Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p>Item 3 Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development</p> <p>– Agricultural commodities</p> <p><i>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 3 (continued) Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development</p> <p>– Minerals, ores and metals</p> <p>– Energy: Oil, gas, coal and renewable energy</p>	<p><i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 4 Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p><i>(3 p.m.–5.30 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 4 (continued) Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p><i>(5.30 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i></p> <p>Item 5 Adoption of the report of the meeting</p>