



**United Nations Conference  
on Trade and Development**

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**Trade and Development Board  
Trade and Development Commission  
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the  
Enabling Environment at All Levels in Support of  
Inclusive and Sustainable Development  
Second session  
Geneva, 8–9 December 2014  
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. Towards an enabling multilateral trading system for inclusive and sustainable development
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

GE.14-17484 (E)



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## 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 expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/4 Provisional agenda and annotations

### Item 3

#### Towards an enabling multilateral trading system for inclusive and sustainable development

3. The topic for this session of the multi-year expert meeting was decided at the consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board on 15 January 2013.

4. The objective of the session is to exchange views, experiences and lessons learned regarding policies and measures at all levels to enhance the contribution of an enabling multilateral trading system to fostering inclusive and sustainable development. This objective will be pursued through presentations by experts from relevant government institutions, and from international organizations, academia, research institutions and civil society, as well as through interactive discussion. Issues that may be addressed in the session include:

- (a) The evolving contribution of trade and the multilateral trading system to inclusive growth and sustainable development;

- (b) Measures needed to make trade integration inclusive and sustainable and to build productive capacities;

- (c) The role of the multilateral trading system in containing all forms of protectionism;

- (d) Analysis of the impact of non-tariff measures/barriers on trade and development prospects of developing countries;

- (e) The role of regional integration and cooperation, including South–South, triangular and other forms of cooperation, to complement multilateral approaches in realizing an enabling environment;

- (f) New and emerging issues on trade and development.

5. The discussion of these issues is proposed at a time when the international community is set to define the post-2015 development framework and sustainable development goals, wherein trade is expected to play a major catalytic role. Experience suggests that transmission of efficiency gains from trade integration to broad-based development is not automatic and remains to be established with conscious policy efforts.

This will require coherent and integrated policy intervention that is supportive of structural transformation, at the macroeconomic and individual sectoral levels, to build broad-based productive capacities with the possibility of diversification, technological upgrading and job creation. Such changing policy needs and priorities need to be supported by an enabling economic environment, of which an open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading and financial system remains an integral part. Despite recurrent setbacks, multilateralism remains a global public good to be supported and upheld. The centrality and credibility of the multilateral trading system is increasingly under stress as global trade governance becomes fragmented with the increased prevalence of regional and plurilateral processes. While the ninth WTO Ministerial Conference (3–6 December 2013, Bali, Indonesia) adopted a package of decisions, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the difficulties in implementing the Bali package has again cast uncertainties over the prospects for post-Bali work to conclude the Doha Round. Efforts are needed to ensure that multilateral and other processes can as a whole create an enabling environment for sustainable development.

6. Building on the discussions undertaken and the recommendations made during the first session of the current multi-year expert meeting, this session will seek to promote, inter alia, greater understanding of how the multilateral trading system can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development and an exchange of experiences and lessons in promoting a coherent and integrated approach to trade and inclusive and sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels.

7. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note. The note reviews recent trends in trade and development, examines current issues with multilateral trade negotiations and evolving regional trade agreements and discusses the importance of ensuring that the multilateral trading system, and other ongoing processes, serves as a key enabler of inclusive and sustainable development.

8. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare case studies on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/5      Towards an enabling multilateral trading system for inclusive and sustainable development

### **Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting**

9. 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**

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 meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and addressed to Ms. Mina Mashayekhi and Mr. Aurangzeb Butt, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 0044; e-mail: mina.mashayekhi@unctad.org and aurangzeb.butt@unctad.org.



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**Corrigendum**

Below the masthead, on the corner notation, the meeting title *should read*  
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at  
All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development.

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GE.14-23834 (E)



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