



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
5 August 2015

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics
and Trade Facilitation**
Fourth session
Geneva, 14–16 October 2015
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. Sustainable freight transport systems: Opportunities for developing countries
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 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. The expert meeting will have three days, from 14 to 16 October 2015, in which to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached as an annex to the present document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/10 Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3**Sustainable freight transport systems: Opportunities for developing countries**

3. At its fifty-sixth executive session, the Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a multi-year expert meeting on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation (TD/B/EX(56)/2/Add.1). In accordance with the terms of reference, the fourth session of the meeting will focus on sustainable freight transport systems.

4. The Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will address some emerging and persistent issues that developing countries are facing and which need to be dealt with as a matter of priority. In accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the Doha Mandate, the expert meeting will address trade logistics issues in developing countries, including those with special needs, namely the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and some countries with economies in transition. Drawing from UNCTAD's three pillars of work, discussions will consider all relevant aspects, namely technical assistance and capacity-building, research and analytical work, and consensus building.

5. Complying with the Doha Mandate on transport and the added political momentum provided by the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the expert meeting will address the challenges and the opportunities associated with sustainable freight transport systems and identify some best practices in the fields of environment-friendly transport, energy conservation and efficient supply chains and logistics systems. The event will also emphasize the financial implications of implementing sustainable freight transport systems, explore potential new sources of finance, such as climate finance, and address a greater involvement of the private sector, notably through public-private partnerships and other innovative financing schemes.

6. The year 2015 is a decisive year for global sustainable development, a year in which the path will be set for a new post-2015 sustainable development agenda and a year in which a climate change agreement is expected to be reached at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Freight transport is, thus, at a critical juncture at which its role in achieving sustainable development objectives can be further defined and better understood. Freight transport underpins trade and its competitiveness and is essential for access, connectivity and economic integration at all levels, including national, regional and global. However, there is an untapped potential in the sector, as more value could be derived from freight transport by addressing its inherent oil dependency, enhancing its ability to provide access while being reliable and resilient, as well as by reducing its negative impacts on the environment and climate. In this context, the year 2015 provides an opportunity for the freight transport sector to assert its strategic importance as an economic sector in its own right as well as underscore its potential to also generate value in terms of economic viability, social equity, resource conservation and environmental protection.

7. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/11 Sustainable freight transport systems: Opportunities for developing countries

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

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its eighth 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 five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. The papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible, addressed to the Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: 41 22 917 0050; e-mail: frida.youssef@unctad.org.

Annex

Provisional schedule of the meeting

<i>Wednesday</i> <i>14 October 2015</i> <i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>	<i>Thursday</i> <i>15 October 2015</i> <i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>	<i>Friday</i> <i>16 October 2015</i> <i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>
Plenary (opening)	Informal session	Informal session
Opening statements	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
Item 1 Election of officers		
Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work		
Introduction of item 3 Sustainable freight transport systems: Opportunities for developing countries		
Informal session		
Item 3 Sustainable freight transport systems: Opportunities for developing countries		
<i>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i>	<i>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i>	<i>(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)</i>
Informal session	Informal session	Informal session
Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	Consideration of the outcome of the meeting
		Plenary (closing)
		Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting