



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
10 September 2018

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics
and Trade Facilitation**
Sixth session
Geneva, 21–23 November 2018
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 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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 21 to 23 November 2018, 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.7/16

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3

Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. At its sixty-sixth executive session, the Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a multi-year expert meeting on transport and trade facilitation (TD/B/EX(66)/2, annex I). In accordance with the terms of reference, the sixth session of the meeting will address sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. As may be recalled, the fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation considered the linkages between trade logistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting discussed how best to leverage the sustainable freight transport dividend to enable effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

5. The sixth session of the expert meeting will investigate in more detail how freight transport can contribute to sustainable development. The role of maritime transport (a backbone for international trade and globalization) in achieving a sustainable development path will be the focus of discussion. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade being carried by sea and with shipping and ports forming an integral part of any door-to-door transport solution, the strategic importance of maritime transport cannot be overemphasized, nor can its potential contribution to sustainable economies and societies.

6. Bearing these considerations in mind, a background note for the agenda item will provide an overview of relevant issues that lie at the interface between maritime transport and sustainable development and highlight how the sustainability of maritime transport can support effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the note will present some trends in digital solutions and innovations, which entail transformational effects on all sectors, including maritime transport.

7. The expert meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss (a) recent developments relating to sustainability in maritime transport; (b) examples of recent UNCTAD work in the field of sustainability building in freight transport; and (c) the opportunities and challenges that may be associated with new technological developments.

8. To facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared the background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session (TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/17). In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers 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.7/17

Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development

Item 4.

Adoption of the report of the meeting

9. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the eleventh session of the Trade and Development Commission in 2019. 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 at 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, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: 41 22 917 00 50; email: frida.youssef@unctad.org

Annex

Provisional schedule of the meeting

<i>Wednesday</i> <i>21 November 2018</i>	<i>Thursday</i> <i>22 November 2018</i>	<i>Friday</i> <i>23 November 2018</i>
<i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>	<i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>	<i>(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>
Opening plenary	Informal meetings	Informal meetings
Opening statement	Item 3 (continued)	Item 3 (continued)
Item 1 Election of officers	Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work		
Introduction of item 3 Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
Informal meetings		
Item 3 Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
<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 meetings	Informal meetings	Informal meetings
Item 3 (continued) Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Item 3 (continued) Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Consideration of the outcome of the meeting
		Closing plenary
		Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting