



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General  
26 February 2019

Original: English

---

**Trade and Development Board**  
**Trade and Development Commission**  
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics  
and Trade Facilitation**  
**Seventh session**  
Geneva, 7–9 May 2019  
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. Trade facilitation and transit 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 7 to 9 May 2019, 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.7/19

Provisional agenda and annotations

GE.19-03213(E)



\* 1 9 0 3 2 1 3 \*

Please recycle A recycling symbol consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



### **Item 3**

#### **Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

3. Following up on the discussions at the sixth session that focused on sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the seventh session will investigate how trade facilitation and transit can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Discussions will focus on trade facilitation reforms and the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, which entered into force in February 2017. More than 140 members of the World Trade Organization have to date ratified the Agreement, and the provisions of the Agreement are now being implemented by these members, in many cases with the assistance of international organizations, including UNCTAD. Full implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is expected to considerably boost international trade and contribute to the sustainable development of developing and least developed countries, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Trade facilitation can assist in simplifying, standardizing, harmonizing and modernizing international cross-border trade, thus increasing trade volumes, making international trade faster and cheaper as well as more accessible for small and medium-sized enterprises. According to various international studies, developing and least developed countries in particular can benefit from implementing efficient trade procedures. Implementing trade facilitation reforms, including for transit, is important for developing and least developed countries in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss developments related to trade facilitation and transit issues and recent UNCTAD work aimed at assisting developing and least developed countries in implementing trade facilitation reforms, as well as to share experiences, including a review of best practices associated with new and rapidly evolving technological developments.

6. To facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session (TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/19). 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.7/20      Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### **Item 4**

#### **Adoption of the report of the meeting**

7. 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: [poul.hansen@unctad.org](mailto:poul.hansen@unctad.org).

## Annex

### Provisional schedule of the meeting

<i>Tuesday</i> <i>7 May 2019</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>8 May 2019</i>	<i>Thursday</i> <i>9 May 2019</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	Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work		
Introduction of item 3		
Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
Informal meetings		
Item 3 Trade facilitation and transit 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) Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Item 3 (continued) Trade facilitation and transit 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