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Trade and Development Board Trade and Development Commission Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation

Ninth session

Geneva, 12–14 July 2022

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 and resilient transport and trade facilitation in times of pandemic and beyond: Key challenges and opportunities.
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 Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation 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 eighth session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above.
3. The topic for this session was approved through a silence procedure that ended on 28 February 2022 and is in line with subparagraphs 127 (c), (t), (v(ii)) and (nn) of the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2). At the meeting, participants will have three days, from 12 to 14 July 2022, to complete the work. A detailed programme will be made available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/25

Provisional agenda and annotations



Item 3

Sustainable and resilient transport and trade facilitation in times of pandemic and beyond: Key challenges and opportunities

4. The disruption from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and uncertainty about a lasting recovery are stark reminders of how unprepared transport and logistics are in the face of disruptions. Pandemic-induced shifts in supply, consumption and demand patterns, the rise in logistical bottlenecks, port congestion and delays, the surge in shipping rates and costs, and deterioration in service reliability have all become a constant feature of the current transport and logistics landscape. The short-term outlook remains one of continued disruption amid emerging virus variants and new waves of infections, as well as a riskier geopolitical landscape. Several trends are making a rapid return to “normal” more challenging, while at the same time generating opportunities for transport and logistics, including trade facilitation. Transport and logistics are facing multiple imperatives spanning digitalization, climate change mitigation and adaptation, transition to low carbon fuels, environmental sustainability, and energy and food security. Addressing the challenges, balancing competing priorities and seizing opportunities call for adequate policies and strategies that prioritize the future proofing of transport and logistics.

5. The ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the key issues at stake and provide recommendations on the best way forward, identify priority action areas, in particular for the most vulnerable group of countries, among these the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, and define the role of relevant stakeholders, including from industry, Government, the public and private sectors and development partners and financial institutions.

6. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a note entitled “Sustainable and resilient transport and trade facilitation in times of pandemic and beyond: Key challenges and opportunities”.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/26 Sustainable and resilient transport and trade facilitation in times of pandemic and beyond: Key challenges and opportunities

Item 4

Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation 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 of the authority of the Chair, to prepare a final report after the conclusion of the ninth session.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (maximum 10 pages) as contributions to the work of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation.

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 should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible, addressed to the Division on Technology and Logistics, Trade Logistics Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0050; email: trade.logistics@UNCTAD.org.