



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General  
17 December 2018

Original: English

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Trade and Development Commission**  
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing**  
**the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels**  
**in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development,**  
**and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation**  
Third session  
Geneva, 25 and 26 February 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. How labour and macroeconomic policies can contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

### II. Annotations

#### **Item 1** **Election of officers**

1. It is recommended that the multi-year 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 multi-year 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.8/7

Provisional agenda and annotations



**Item 3****How labour and macroeconomic policies can contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

3. The topic of the third session of the multi-year expert meeting was approved by the Trade and Development Board on 4 October 2018.

4. Paragraph 76 (v) of the Nairobi Maaikiano states that UNCTAD should “assess, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations such as the International Labour Organization, the impact of labour and employment policies on economic growth, including the interrelation between macroeconomic and labour policies”.

5. In particular, at the session, participants will explore the links between employment and, respectively, macroeconomic policies and the international context, with the aim of highlighting the main elements of a consistent policy framework. Within a macroeconomic setting, the most salient issues will be the roles of income distribution, and hence wage and employment and social protection, as well as fiscal policies, in ensuring healthy growth of aggregate demand and investment. Participants at the session will also address, from this perspective, the gender dimension of such macroeconomic and employment policies. In the international context, salient issues will be a global monetary system that does not rely exclusively on global capital markets.

6. The session will highlight the structural limits to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals posed by two trends: on the one hand, global retrenchment of labour income shares and fiscal policy eroding domestic demand, forcing a tendency to rely on the growth of net exports; and, on the other hand, hazardous dependency on global financial markets which imposes limits to domestic policy space. By implication, the session will aim at highlighting the degree of reforms and policy effort that are required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to facilitate discussion. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare articles on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the multi-year expert meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/8

How labour and macroeconomic policies can contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

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

8. The report of the multi-year expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The multi-year 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.

Experts are requested to advise of their intention to submit papers and contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat by 8 February 2019. Written papers and contributions must be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 22 February 2019.

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