



# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development**  
Fourth session  
Geneva, 25–27 January 2021  
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. Addressing systemic issues: Strengthening the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy.
4. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development.
5. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development on its fourth session.

### II. Annotations

#### Item 1 Election of officers

1. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

#### Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development may wish to adopt the provisional agenda reproduced under chapter I above.
3. It is proposed that the opening plenary meeting of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, which will start at 11 a.m. on Monday, 25 January 2021, will be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and opening statements. The closing plenary meeting on Wednesday, 27 January 2021, will



consider the adoption of the report of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to the Trade and Development Board and the provisional agenda for its fifth session (agenda items 4 and 5), to be held tentatively in the final quarter of 2021, as stipulated in the terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (see TD/B(S-XXXI)/2, annex IV, II.6).

4. The remaining meetings will be dedicated to substantive discussions of issues under agenda item 3.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/EFD/4/1

Provisional agenda and annotations

### **Item 3**

#### **Addressing systemic issues: Strengthening the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy**

5. The third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development agreed that discussions at the fourth session should consider the following topic: Addressing systemic issues – strengthening the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy.

6. This topic corresponds to action area F of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and section II.F.1–5 of the reports of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda noted that the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted in 2002, emphasized “the importance of continuing to improve global economic governance and to strengthen the United Nations leadership role in promoting development [and the] importance of the coherence and consistency of the international financial and monetary and trading systems in support of development”.<sup>1</sup> Action area F built on the Monterrey Consensus, which focused on systemic issues of international financial and trade architectures with the aim of promoting a development-friendly international trading system, ensuring affordable access to technology for structural transformation and reducing financial and debt vulnerabilities in developing countries. Underlying this was the broad recognition that core drivers of development and determinants of national policy space were increasingly global or systemic in nature and that, in a more financialized global economy, this was particularly the case for issues related to the financing of development. States noted that “since Monterrey we have become increasingly aware of the need to take account of economic, social and environmental challenges [and] to enhance policy coherence across all three dimensions of sustainable development”.<sup>2</sup> In addition to continued financial instability, including following the global financial crisis in 2008/09, finance-led hyperglobalization has seen a substantive shift of bargaining power away from still largely nationally regulated labour to increasingly footloose capital, fuelling increasing income and wealth inequalities in many parts of the world, as well as weakening global economic governance structures, for example through the proliferation of bilateral investment treaties and bilateral or regional trade agreements. In particular in developing countries, national policy space to address economic, social and environmental issues at domestic levels has shrunk, while the effectiveness of an increasingly fragmented multilateral system to design and implement coherent collective policy responses and to scale up the financing of structural transformation, towards both the greening of the global economy and the facilitating of inclusive catching-up development, has also been limited. This has become particularly evident in the context of the ongoing pandemic, and calls for heightened efforts to improve international policy coordination and coherence, including through relevant institutional reforms, have risen in volume and number in recent months.

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/69/313, paragraph 103.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

7. The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will deliberate on these and related issues, based on the following agreed guiding questions for this session:

(a) Through which institutional reforms, and improvements in policy coordination and coherence, can regulatory gaps and misaligned incentives in the financial system be addressed so as to increase financial stability for long-term development and global economic prosperity?

(b) How can the role of the United Nations in scaling up effective development finance, and in strengthening the international financial safety net, be rendered more effective?

(c) Which policy tools and mechanisms, at the national, regional and multilateral levels, can best help to reduce excessive volatility in commodity prices and advance a development-friendly trade and investment regime that facilitates domestic financial resource mobilization in developing countries?

(d) How can the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting be broadened and strengthened?

*Documentation*

TD/B/EFD/4/2

Addressing systemic issues: Strengthening the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade and development policy

**Item 4**

**Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development**

8. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, acting in its capacity as the preparatory body for the fifth session, is expected to agree on the provisional agenda for its next session, the substantive item of which should come out of discussions under item 3.

**Item 5**

**Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development on its fourth session**

9. Under the authority of the Chair of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, a report of the meeting will be produced and submitted to the Trade and Development Board. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts may wish to authorize the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur to finalize the report after the conclusion of its fourth session.

Experts are requested to submit written contributions related to agenda item 3 to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible. For further information, please contact Ms. Kristine Fitzpatrick (kristine.fitzpatrick@unctad.org), Economic Affairs Officer, Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division of Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD.