



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
23 August 2023

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development
Seventh session
Geneva, 1–3 November 2023
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. Delivering development finance to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Making development finance contribute to environmentally sound industrialization.
4. Provisional agenda of the eighth 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 seventh 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 as reproduced in chapter I above.

3. It is proposed that the opening plenary meeting of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, which will start at 10 a.m. (Central European Time) on Wednesday, 1 November 2023, will be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda) and opening statements. At the closing plenary meeting on Friday, 3 November 2023, consideration will be given to the adoption of the report of the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to the Trade and Development Board, including agreed policy recommendations, and the provisional agenda of its eighth session (agenda items 4 and 5), to be held in the fourth quarter of 2024, as stipulated in the terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (see TD/B(S-XXXI)/2, annex IV, section II, paragraph 6, and the revised terms of references, as contained in document TD/B/EX(71)/3, annex V). The remaining meetings will be dedicated to substantive discussions of issues under agenda item 3.

Documentation

TD/B/EFD/7/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Delivering development finance to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Making development finance contribute to environmentally sound industrialization

4. The substantive topic and guiding questions for the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development were approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that concluded on 26 April 2023 (see TD/B/70/4, annex IV). The approved topic is “Delivering development finance to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Making development finance contribute to environmentally sound industrialization”. The session will be held in-person from 1 to 3 November 2023 in Geneva.

5. The topic corresponds to that of chapter I of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313, annex), in particular paragraphs 15 and 17, and to action areas A, B, C, E and F in chapter II. In chapter I, “a global framework for financing development post-2015” is outlined, including “promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization” (para. 15) and “protecting our ecosystems for all” (para. 17). In chapter II, challenges and priorities are set out with regard to domestic public resources (chapter II.A), domestic and international private business and finance (chapter II.B), international development cooperation (chapter II.C), debt and debt sustainability (chapter II.E) and addressing systemic issues (chapter II.F).

6. The guiding questions for the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development are as follows:

(a) What policies, initiatives and instruments (domestic, regional and international) can be considered to promote and facilitate inclusive and sustainable industrial development and climate transition in developing countries?

(b) What best practices can be identified for supporting sustainable business models and their related challenges?

(c) How can international cooperation support structural transformation and aid countries to identify and leverage finance that contributes to the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement objectives?

7. Developing countries currently face an exceptionally challenging global outlook. According to the Debt Sustainability Analysis under the Joint International Monetary Fund–World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-income Countries, as at June 2023, over half of low-income developing countries (36 of 69 countries) were either at high risk or already in debt distress, twice as many as in 2015. Fifty-two developing countries, accounting for half the world’s population living in extreme poverty, are estimated to be suffering from severe debt problems and high borrowing costs. As many as 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health and education. These countries are home to 40 per cent of the world’s poor and among the most climate-vulnerable countries. With debt servicing levels for low-income countries rising to almost 23 per cent of their export revenues in 2022, and staying stubbornly at 13 per cent for middle-income countries, the situation is unsustainable.

8. Concomitantly, midway towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals remains behind schedule. Cascading global crises – the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the war in Ukraine, a deepening climate crisis and the cost-of-living crisis – have further reversed progress. The latest global-level data and assessments reveal that, of the 140 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that can be evaluated, half show moderate or severe deviations from the desired trajectory. Furthermore, there has been no progress on more than 30 per cent of these targets or, worse, progress towards the targets has regressed relative to the 2015 baseline. The risk of not achieving the Goals by the end of the decade, without renewed commitment from Member States and the international community alike, is real.

9. Recovering momentum on implementing the 2030 Agenda requires climate challenges and structural transformation to be addressed in a complementary way, and synergies need to be maximized. The question is what options are available for already debt-burdened countries to undertake the development investment necessary for the structural transformation that underpins the Sustainable Development Goals, including the green transition.

10. Green industrial policy will be a central pillar of an ensuing redirection of public sector-led policies. Much of the transition towards low-carbon industries will be at the domestic level and involve a wide range of institutional changes, public investment, direct subsidies and expansionary macroeconomic policies, including taxation reform, for developing countries to mobilize their domestic resources in the push towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. The seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development will consider how the financing of an environmentally sound industrialization strategy, which integrates development and climate challenges, can be supported by the full range of measures at the international, regional and national levels envisaged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Documentation

TD/B/EFD/7/2

Delivering development finance to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Making development finance contribute to environmentally sound industrialization

Item 4
Provisional agenda of the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development

12. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development, acting in its capacity as the preparatory body for the eighth 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 seventh session

13. Under the authority of the Chair of the seventh 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 seventh 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. Penelope Hawkins (penelope.hawkins@unctad.org), Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division of Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD.