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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Sixteenth session
Geneva, 31 August–4 September 2026
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The sixteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be held from 31 August to 4 September 2026. The role of the commissions, as subsidiary bodies of the Trade and Development Board and as defined in paragraph 121 of the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2), is to consider the reports of expert meetings and the synergies between the three pillars and the work of the subprogrammes of UNCTAD, as well as to conduct policy dialogue on one or two selected issues. The Geneva Consensus (TD/561/Add.2) mandates the commissions to perform the important function of integrating the substantive inputs received from their respective subsidiary expert groups, including the intergovernmental groups of experts, into policy-oriented outcomes for the consideration of these outcomes at a political level by the Trade and Development Board.

2. The topic of the substantive agenda item is strategic policy options in navigating the global investment landscape. In addition, the Commission will review reports of expert meetings. Furthermore, the Commission will examine relevant activities implemented by the secretariat that have promoted and strengthened synergies among the three pillars. In accordance with paragraph 75 of the Geneva Consensus, the outcomes of the commissions should be inputs for a draft resolution for the consideration of the Trade and Development Board.

Item 1
Election of officers

3. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission shall elect a Chair, five Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members: four members from lists A and C combined, two from list B and one from list D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

4. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation, the Bureau for the sixteenth session of the Commission will be as follows: a Chair from list C, a Rapporteur from list D, three Vice-Chairs from lists A and C combined and two Vice-Chairs from list B.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that concluded on 22 April 2026. A programme of work will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/56	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development

6. Under the agenda item, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will review and discuss the outcome of the twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and

Sustainable Development.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/35	Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its twelfth session

Item 4
Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

7. Under the agenda item, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its forty-second session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/ISAR/115	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its forty-second session

Item 5
Navigating the global investment landscape: Strategic policy options

8. International investment is experiencing a turbulent era, shaped by rising geopolitical tensions, trade policy uncertainty and growing economic security concerns. Investment decisions are increasingly guided by strategic and risk-management considerations rather than cost efficiency alone. At the same time, Governments are taking a more active role, through industrial policies, screening mechanisms and other measures, thus altering the global investment environment and increasing its complexity.

9. A defining feature of this transformation is the growing importance of strategic sectors, including advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, clean energy, digital infrastructure and emerging technologies. Investment in these sectors has expanded rapidly and is closely aligned with industrial policy priorities. That investment, however, remains highly concentrated in a small number of economies that have strong financial and technological capabilities.

10. In parallel, global supply chains are being reconfigured in response to geopolitical factors, trade policy changes and repeated disruptions. This reconfiguration occurs primarily through new investment rather than large-scale relocation, signalling a slowdown in the traditional search for efficiency in manufacturing investment. Firms increasingly balance cost considerations against resilience, predictability and market access. Also, regional integration is gaining relevance, which contributes to potentially more regionally embedded production networks, though with uneven implications across countries.

11. For developing economies, these global shifts present both constraints and opportunities. While increasing the concentration of investment flows, policy uncertainty and geopolitical considerations may restrict access to foreign direct investment, the evolution of supply chains and rise of strategic sectors also create new entry points for countries that can adapt or adjust their policies, capabilities and institutions with emerging trends.

12. Against this backdrop, the experiences of Bangladesh and Tunisia provide useful illustrations of how developing countries are adapting their investment strategies to position themselves more effectively within a rapidly changing global landscape. The experiences of these countries also highlight the importance of reviewing and adapting investment policies, as well as the role of UNCTAD investment policy reviews in supporting these efforts.

13. In Tunisia, ongoing reforms to the investment law and the institutional framework for investment promotion build directly on the recommendations of the country's 2025 investment policy review and subsequent engagement. By prioritizing investment facilitation, digitalization and stronger institutional coordination, these reforms aim to modernize the policy framework, improve the business environment and better align investment with inclusive and sustainable development objectives. The experience of Bangladesh shows the value of sustained follow-up to the 2013 investment policy review, through technical assistance and a 2026 implementation report from UNCTAD that examines progress made. In a challenging global investment context, the country has used this support to advance regulatory reforms, streamline administrative procedures, enhance digital systems and improve policy predictability. The ongoing reforms of Bangladesh and Tunisia illustrate how the investment policy review process, combined with ongoing advisory and capacity-building activities, can help countries to translate policy recommendations into tangible reforms, strengthening their ability to attract investment and direct efforts towards diversification, resilience and long-term development.

Documentation

UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2025/5	*Report on the Implementation of the Investment Policy Review: Bangladesh*
UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2024/5	*Examen de la politique d'investissement : Tunisie*
UNCTAD/WIR/2026 and Overview	*World Investment Report 2026: International Investment in a Turbulent Era*

Item 6
Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

14. Under the agenda item, the secretariat will report on progress made in promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of work of UNCTAD in the areas covered by the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

Item 7
Other business

Item 8
Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

15. The report of the sixteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.