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Trade and Development Board

Trade and Development Commission

Fourteenth session

Geneva, 22–26 April 2024

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. Reports of expert meetings:
 - (a) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development;
 - (b) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development;
 - (c) 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;
 - (d) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation.
4. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy.
5. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.
6. Trade and development implications of key aspects of the energy transition:
 - (a) Critical minerals;
 - (b) Sustainable fuel for maritime transport.
7. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board.



II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The fourteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission will be held from 22 to 26 April 2024. 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.

2. The topic of the substantive agenda item is trade and development implications of key aspects of the energy transition, with two subtopics: critical minerals and sustainable fuel for maritime transport. 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.

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 Trade 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 thirteenth session of the Commission will be as follows: a Chair from list B, a Rapporteur from list A (Asia), three Vice-Chairs from lists A and C combined, one Vice-Chair from list B and one Vice-Chair from list D.

Item 2

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 11 January 2024. A programme of work will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/56

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Reports of expert meetings

(a) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

6. Under the agenda item, the Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development on its fourteenth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/59

Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development on its fourteenth session

(b) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development

7. Under the agenda item, the Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development on its tenth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/30 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development on its tenth session

(c) 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

8. Under the agenda item, the Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the 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 on its sixth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/18 Report of the 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 on its sixth session

(d) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation

9. Under the agenda item, the Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation on its tenth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/30 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation on its tenth session

Item 4**Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy**

10. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its twenty-first session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CLP/72 Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its twenty-first session

Item 5**Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy**

11. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Commission will review and discuss the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy on its seventh session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/37

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on
Consumer Protection Law and Policy on its seventh session**Item 6****Trade and development implications of key aspects of the energy transition**

12. Under the agenda item, the Trade and Development Commission will discuss two key aspects of the energy transition with deep ramifications for trade and development.

(a) Critical minerals

13. Critical energy transition minerals are essential to produce clean energy technologies, which include solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles and battery storage. The success of the energy transition hinges on securing a supply of critical energy transition minerals for all countries, while mitigating the potential pitfalls associated with their extraction and trade. However, many countries rich in critical energy transition minerals are not maximizing the benefits of this profound shift and despite criticality for the energy transition, there is an emerging risk that critical energy transition minerals will lead developing countries into a new, “green” commodity trap.

14. The Trade and Development Commission will discuss pathways available to member States to navigate the challenges raised by increasing demand for critical energy transition minerals and propose policy options to shape a future where critical energy transition minerals not only power global clean energy aspirations but also contribute to industrialization, responsible resource management and sustainable, inclusive economic growth for developing countries.

(b) Sustainable fuel for maritime transport

15. Maritime transport is responsible for a small but growing fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions. As an essential component of global supply chains, maritime transport can greatly influence trade costs and have oversized impact for countries that rely heavily on maritime transport in their trade flows, which is the case of small island developing States.

16. The maritime transport industry is increasingly aware of the need to transition to more sustainable ways of powering the ships that carry 80 per cent of world trade. Various technical options are being explored to transition to greener shipping, including sustainable fuels.

17. The Trade and Development Commission will discuss the potential role of sustainable fuels in facilitating the energy transition of maritime transport and the trade and development implications of an energy transition that rely heavily on such fuels in maritime transport.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/57

Trade and development implications of key aspects of the
energy transition

Item 7**Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars**

18. 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 Trade and Development Commission.

Item 8**Other business****Item 9****Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board**

19. The report of the fourteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.
