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Trade and Development Board

Trade and Development Commission

Fifteenth session

Geneva, 28 April–2 May 2025

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. Leveraging international trade rules for development.
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 fifteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission will be held from 28 April to 2 May 2025. 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 leveraging international trade rules for development. 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 fifteenth session of the Commission will be as follows: a Chair from list A (Asia), 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 fifteenth of the Trade and Development Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board at the closing plenary of its seventy-seventh executive session on 5 February 2025. A programme of work will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/59

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 fifteenth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/63

Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development on its fifteenth 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 eleventh session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/33 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development on its eleventh 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 seventh session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/20 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 seventh 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 eleventh session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/33 Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation on its eleventh 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-second session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CLP/77 Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy on its twenty-second 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 eighth session.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/42

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on
Consumer Protection Law and Policy on its eighth session**Item 6****Leveraging international trade rules for development**

12. In recent decades, it has been observed that, under appropriate conditions, trade can be a powerful engine for economic growth and poverty reduction. As such, the multilateral trade framework can play a key role in advancing global development objectives. However, developing countries and particularly the least developed countries often struggle to fully leverage this framework, due to capacity constraints and resource limitations. To maximize the benefits of World Trade Organization membership, these countries should make full use of the existing flexibilities and special and differential treatment within multilateral trade agreements.

13. At the same time, new global developments including new trade rules and the emergence of new issues such as climate change, critical energy transition minerals, biodiversity degradation and rapid technological transformations, are reshaping the trade policy space of developing countries. To benefit from multilateral trade rules, developing countries need to strengthen their capacities to address these issues adequately. UNCTAD stands ready to support member States better leverage development benefits from the multilateral trade rules.

14. By fostering discussions and bridging policy gaps, UNCTAD aims to help countries better harness the development benefits of multilateral trade rules and advance a more inclusive and sustainable global trade system.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/60

Leveraging international trade rules for development

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

15. 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**

16. The report of the fifteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.
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