



**United Nations Conference  
on Trade and Development**

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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Trade and Development Commission**  
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development**  
Ninth session  
Geneva, 4–6 July 2022  
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. The evolving landscape of digital trade in services.
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting.



## II. Annotations

### Item 1

#### Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

### Item 2

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

2. The substantive topic for the ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 28 February 2022. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

#### *Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/25

Provisional agenda and annotations

### Item 3

#### The evolving landscape of digital trade in services

3. Member States, at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, stated that UNCTAD should “support and promote activities and initiatives in developing countries through the improvement in trade in services, including the utilization of special economic zones” (TD/541/Add.2).

4. The sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will address the role of trade in services in economic diversification, aimed at identifying new approaches to services policymaking and establishing a global services community that is development oriented. The sessions will build on findings from the previous eight sessions, build on lessons learned during the five sessions of the Global Services Forum held in 2012–2021 and draw on insights from completed and ongoing technical assistance activities.

5. This session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will focus on the impact of digitalization on trade in services. It will provide an opportunity for experts to exchange views on how digitalization could be a game changer in the participation of developing countries in trade in services and to share experiences in linking digital services trade to economic diversification.<sup>1</sup>

6. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note entitled “The evolving landscape of digital trade in services” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/26). In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare case studies on the topic under discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> An informal working group will be formed to meet on the margins of sessions of the multi-year expert meeting; the objective is for services experts and representatives of national statistical bureaus, along with other relevant stakeholders, to exchange views and identify key challenges with regard to the collection and use of data.

7. Member States are invited to nominate experts from the public and/or private sectors. Nominated experts are encouraged to participate in all sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development to ensure continuity. Each State is encouraged to nominate up to five experts to participate remotely.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/26                      The evolving landscape of digital trade in services

**Item 4**  
**Adoption of the report of the meeting**

8. The report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. Participants at the expert meeting may wish to authorize the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

**Input from experts**

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting, addressed to [tncdb@unctad.org](mailto:tncdb@unctad.org).