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Trade and Development Board
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**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**
Seventh session
Geneva, 28–29 November 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. Optimizing policy space for development strategies: Productive capacities, value addition and economic diversification.
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 Election of officers

1. It is recommended that 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 elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.



Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/19 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3**Optimizing policy space for development strategies: Productive capacities, value addition and economic diversification**

3. The seventh session 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 will be held on the topic approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure concluded on 30 April 2024, “Optimizing policy space for development strategies: Productive capacities, value addition and economic diversification”. The objective of the session is to discuss which trade and investment policies can help developing countries to build productive capacities, as well as promote value addition, economic diversification and resilience in a time of compound crises.

4. The current geopolitical context, where major globalization and fragmentation trends are likely to co-evolve, necessitates a discussion on development strategies that optimize policy space across various areas, including international trade, investment – particularly with regard to green and sustainable industries, crisis response and promotion of economic resilience.

5. The persistent difficulty for developing countries is the identification of trade and investment policies that build productive capacities, promote value addition and foster economic diversification and resilience amid compound crises. Thus, addressing the issue of policy space is crucial, as the primary macroeconomic policy challenge for developing countries is to improve the sectoral composition of their economies to support resilience and sustainability in the face of multiple external constraints and the growing costs of climate change.

6. Policy space is commonly defined by the set of strategies that policymakers can implement within a given context of the macroeconomic, financial, environmental and regulatory constraints that they face. Typically, debates around the notion of policy space have focused on the trade-offs between the rules of international economic integration and the autonomy available to nation-States to pursue policies that effectively support their economic development.

7. In discussing policy space, attention will be accorded to, among other factors, the domestic and international factors that affect policy space and the degree of freedom policymakers have when pursuing their developmental priorities.

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

8. The 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 will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The multi-year expert meeting may wish to authorize the 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. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and addressed to Ms. Anastasia Nesvetailova, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva, Switzerland; tel. +41 22 917 3961, email: anastasia.nesvetailova@unctad.org.
