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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Expert Meeting on Green and Renewable Technologies
as Energy Solutions for Rural Development
Geneva, 9–11 February 2010
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Green and renewable technologies as energy solutions for rural development
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 expert meeting elect a Chair and two Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteurs.

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/EM.3/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Green and renewable technologies as energy solutions for rural development

3. The Trade and Development Board, at its forty-seventh executive session, held on 30 June 2009, approved the following topic for a single-year expert meeting: “Green and renewable technologies as energy solutions for rural development”.
4. Commitments to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services, in particular to increase the share of renewable sources of energy in the global energy supply, have been repeatedly made by Governments at the international level, most notably at the

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in 2002, the World Summit (2005) and UNCTAD XII (2008).

5. Developing countries are unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals without access to affordable and predictable modern energy services. Lack of electricity and heavy reliance on traditional energy sources have been recognized as “hallmarks of poverty”, with serious negative repercussions on health, gender equality, education, the environment and agricultural productivity. Whilst some progress has been registered towards implementing the commitments made in the Johannesburg Plan of Action, a significant gap remains.

6. It has increasingly been acknowledged that green and new renewable energy technologies (GRETs)¹ can offer a vital contribution to poverty eradication, job creation, energy security and rural development. GRETs are, in addition, a determinant tool for transitioning towards low-carbon, sustainable growth paths and enhancing the adaptive capacity of communities that are vulnerable to climate change.

7. UNCTAD’s expert meeting will explore how to integrate the development and deployment of GRETs into rural poverty reduction strategies, with a view to identifying the main social, technical, economic and cultural barriers, as well as success factors and key policy tools. Special emphasis will be placed on financing, technology and trade-related issues. The gender implications will also be examined.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/EM.3/2 Green and renewable technologies as energy solutions for rural development

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission and the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at their next sessions. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteurs, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers to the UNCTAD secretariat by 25 January 2010, addressed to Ms. Dong Wu, e-mail: dong.wu@unctad.org.

¹ These include, inter alia, the provision of electricity generated from green and renewable sources such as wind, solar, water, tide/wave and geothermal, and the provision of other modern energy services that are powered by renewable sources for activities such as household heating, space conditioning and water pumping.