



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enterprise Development Policies and
Capacity-building in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
Third session
Geneva, 19–21 January 2011
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. Enterprise development policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation
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 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.II/MEM.1/8 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Enterprise development policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation

3. This multi-year expert meeting, which met for the first time in January 2009, aims at identifying policies and best practices that encourage the creation and successful growth of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation (STI). Another objective of the expert meeting is to review the coordination and consistency of existing policy measures dealing with the promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and private sector development.

4. The first session of the multi-year expert meeting focused on the importance of an enabling environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. The discussions highlighted three main pillars that are relevant to encourage entrepreneurship in the start-up phase: (a) support to entrepreneurship infrastructure; (b) the promotion of research–industry–government collaboration; and (c) access to finance, a major hurdle in developing countries. The experts' deliberations also explored the role of open innovation for SMEs in developing countries and the use of STI for poverty reduction.

5. The theme of the second session of the multi-year expert meeting was "From the evaluation based on indicators to policy frameworks for entrepreneurship and SME development and innovation – firm foundation, growth, finance and failure". With respect to the Terms of References agreed at the fifty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board, the topic was refined and revised by the experts at the first session of the multi-year expert meeting, and then endorsed by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-seventh executive session on 30 June 2009.

6. To facilitate the discussion for this year's meeting, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note entitled "Entrepreneurship education, innovation and capacity-building in developing countries" (TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/9). The note highlights the important role entrepreneurship education plays in developing entrepreneurial attitudes, skills and behaviours. It also raises awareness about science, technology and innovation (STI)-driven development and the role of education and research institutions in encouraging innovation. It discusses main issues that need to be addressed to ensure efficient integration of entrepreneurship education into entrepreneurship strategies and policies and outlines some guiding recommendations in this area. With regard to STI, it highlights the importance of providing technology-based skill training to students at all levels of the education process, in order to create a more open and innovative society. It also addresses issues such as capacity-building for STI, the transfer of technology from universities to the productive

sector and the challenges that education and research institutions in developing countries face in the context of globalized competition for STI talent.

7. While policies and practice from developed countries will provide some examples, the expert meeting will mainly focus on strategies and programmes for developing countries. The ultimate goal of the meeting is to present an overview of approaches to entrepreneurship education and STI to enable policymakers to formulate, monitor and evaluate national policies to inspire and enable individuals to start and grow entrepreneurial ventures. Experts will also discuss the role of education and research institutions in encouraging STI, and will explore the challenges that education institutions face in developing countries with regard to their role as stakeholders in innovation-led development. In this respect, the expert meeting will benefit from the lessons learned from UNCTAD's technical assistance projects in this area. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/9 Entrepreneurship education, innovation and capacity-building in developing countries

TD/B/C.II/MEM.1/CRP.2 Entrepreneurship education policies
(English only)

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at its next session. The 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.

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. Papers, which will draw on national and private sector experience, will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Experts are requested to submit papers by 10 January 2011. Papers related to enterprise policies and indicators should be forwarded to Ms. Fulvia Farinelli, Enterprise Development Branch, Division on Investment and Enterprise, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 0122; e-mail: fulvia.farinelli@unctad.org. Papers related to education and STI policies should be forwarded to Mr. Dima Calovski, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics; fax: +41 22 917 0052; e-mail: dima.calovski@unctad.org.