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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues
Expert Meeting on Capacity Building in the Area of FDI:
Data Compilation and Policy Formulation in Developing Countries
Geneva, 12–14 December 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. FDI data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

* This document was submitted on the above date owing to technical delays.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is contained in section I above. A detailed programme will be made available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

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Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3: FDI data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries

3. As was requested at the ninth session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, the Expert Meeting will focus on issues related to the impact of FDI on development and capacity building in the area of FDI data compilation and policy formulation in developing countries. Reliable data are essential for analysing the process of globalization in all its dimensions, including its impact on sustainable economic development, and, on this basis, for formulating development-oriented policies. Although recent years have seen progress in this respect, the scope and quality of FDI data in a number of developing countries, especially least developed countries, are still not adequate for the purposes of policy analysis and formulation.

4. The Expert Meeting will focus on the issues of FDI data compilation and analysis and its role in the formulation of FDI policies from a development perspective. It will explore issues relating to the nature of data and the problems arising from them, as well as data compilation methodologies and difficulties in their implementation. The meeting will discuss ways and means to answer the specific needs of developing countries in data compilation and analysis so as to enable them to make informed policy decisions in the area of FDI. It will also raise the awareness of member States regarding internationally accepted standards relating to FDI data collection and reporting systems, including with respect to the activities of foreign affiliates in host countries. The following themes will be discussed:

- The relationship between statistics, impact assessment and policy formulation in the area of FDI
- The types of data available and their advantages and deficiencies in view of policy makers' needs, especially in developing countries

- "Dos and don'ts" that Governments should keep in mind when making FDI statistics an element of the decision-making process of national policies
- Leading problems faced by developing countries, especially least developed countries, in compiling statistics on FDI flows and stocks and on the activities of TNCs
- Data collection methods and their applicability in a developing-country context
- Ways and means to improve the availability and harmonization of FDI-related data (including through regional and international cooperation) and their usefulness to policy makers, particularly in developing countries
- Priority work areas, especially as regards human resources development and institutional frameworks in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries

5. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat is preparing an issues note on "FDI statistics: data compilation and policy issues." In addition, experts are expected to prepare brief papers on the subject. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

6. The experts invited include those from international and regional organizations including, among others, United Nations regional offices, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Eurostat, the European Central Bank, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, data compilers and practitioners in central banks, statistical offices and investment authorities dealing with statistics on FDI and the activities of TNCs, and academics who extensively use FDI and TNC statistics in their work.

Documentation

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"FDI statistics: data compilation and policy issues"
(issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat)

Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its tenth session. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairperson, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the Meeting.