



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation
Second session
Geneva, 8–10 December 2009
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. Public and private partnerships for the development of infrastructure to facilitate trade and transport
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 meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. The expert meeting will have three days, from 8 to 10 December 2009, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/4 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3. Public and private partnerships for the development of infrastructure to facilitate trade and transport

3. At its fifty-fifth session, the Trade and Development Board approved terms of reference for a multi-year expert meeting on transport and trade facilitation (TD/B/55/9, paras. 1–5). In accordance with the terms of reference, the second session of the meeting will concentrate on public and private partnerships for the development of infrastructure to facilitate trade and transport.

4. Transport and trade facilitation infrastructure and services have become essential components for developing countries' competitiveness in the global market. The demands for ever faster and more reliable trade logistics services have drawn increasing attention to trade and transport facilitation, which can be more important than tariffs in determining the cost of traded goods. This encompasses particular challenges for landlocked developing countries confronted with the need to connect to global shipping networks through neighbouring countries' seaports, combined with additional border crossings and often high distances for overland transport.

5. Partnering between the public sector and the relevant business sectors is critical in enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of transport and trade infrastructures and services, for imports, exports and for transit. The Almaty Programme of Action specifically calls upon the private sector to "be a main contributor to the development of infrastructure and productive capacities in both landlocked and transit developing countries". Such partnerships are known to contribute to overcoming operational obstacles and administrative bottlenecks, improving transit transport operations for the benefit of stakeholders in both landlocked and transit coastal countries.

6. Governments are increasingly seeking private partners for the financing, building, operation and maintenance of such infrastructure and services. Public–private partnerships (PPPs) have proven to be successful cooperative means for the provision of public infrastructure and services. Different models for PPPs reflect the multitude of possible contractual relationships.

7. In the context of the current economic crisis, investment in transport infrastructure and services is confronted with additional challenges. Both the public and the private sector, in landlocked and transit developing countries, have found their financing possibilities reduced. It is important that all partners work closely together to avoid that a

cyclical decline in transport investment today would result in capacity constraints and obstacles to trade tomorrow.

8. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note to assist participants in the deliberations at the session (TD/B/C.I/MEM.1/5). 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.I/MEM.1/5 Public and private partnerships for the development of infrastructure to facilitate trade and transport

Item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

9. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its second session in May 2010. 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.

Input 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 as soon as possible, addressed to the Trade Logistics Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 00 50; e-mail: tlb@unctad.org.

Annex**Provisional schedule of the meeting**

Tuesday 8 December 2009	Wednesday 9 December 2009	Thursday 10 December 2009
(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) Plenary Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the Meeting Introduction of item 3 Informals Item 3: Public and private partnerships for the development of infrastructure to facilitate trade and transport	(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>	(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>
(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>	(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Informals Item 3: <i>(continued)</i>	(3 p.m. – 6 p.m.) Informals Consideration of the outcome of the meeting Plenary (closing) Item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting