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Annual meeting of the Global Network of Exim Banks and Development Finance Institutions

UNCTAD XIII special event

Held at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, on 20 April 2012

Summary prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. Members of the Global Network of Exim Banks and Development Finance Institutions (G-NEXID) meet annually to evaluate its performance during the preceding year, discuss issues and map out strategies aimed at furthering the cause of the Network in the coming year.
2. The seventh Annual Meeting of G-NEXID, formally opened by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, considered the following items: applications for membership, membership mobilization, an annual report on activities of the Network for the period 2011 to 2012, a work programme and budget for the period May 2012 to April 2013 and the development status of an Internet-based database for the sharing of credit information, and experiences and best practices in the financing of cross-border trade and investments, among other agenda items.
3. Delegates took note of the progress made by the Network from May 2011 to April 2012, which included the following:
 - (a) Building technical capacity of members by holding a seminar entitled “Enhancing South–South Cooperation: Promoting SMEs’ Finance”, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 September 2011;
 - (b) Increasing membership of the Network. The China Export-Import Bank and Indonesia Export-Import Bank had joined the association recently as a result of ongoing membership mobilization efforts during the period. The Network had begun processing membership applications from the Brazilian Development Bank – known as BNDES – the Exim Bank of Jamaica and the Qatar Development Bank, among others;

(c) Deepening international cooperation by participating in various international events organized by its partners and concluding a number of agreements. For example, the Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the Green Economy: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications, led by UNCTAD in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Environment Programme, took place in Geneva on 8–10 November 2011. Another event, the Expert Meeting on Policy Dialogue: Redefining the Role of the Government in Tomorrow’s International Trade, was held by UNCTAD in Geneva on 26–28 March 2012. Other contributions were the increased financing of South–South trade through the offer of bilateral lines of credit among Network members, for example, a line of credit of \$20 million to the Nigerian Export-Import Bank by the Export-Import Bank of China; a line of credit of \$150 million to the ECOWAS¹ Bank for Investment and Development by the Export-Import Bank of India; and a line of credit of \$95 million to the supranational bank Bladex by the African Export-Import Bank. The aforementioned line of credit was granted in line with a mutual agreement concluded in March 2012 to offer each other reciprocal trade finance lines to support trade between member countries of the two regional institutions. In addition, several agreements intended to deepen cooperation among members and partners were concluded.

(d) Continuing work on the creation of an Internet-based credit database to facilitate the processing of cross-border trade and project finance transactions. During the review period, all general information about G-NEXID members was uploaded onto the database: name of institution, name of head, address, telephone number, contact person for G-NEXID, and so forth. The coordinator of the Network was also trained by the consultant to enable her to assist with the training of staff of member institutions in the use of the database. It was expected that construction of the Network database would be completed and the platform made operational during the second half of 2012.

4. The meeting adopted a near-term work programme to be implemented from May 2012 to April 2013, which covered the following objectives:

(a) Intensifying membership mobilization efforts with a view to raising the Network’s global reach and presence;

(b) Implementing a marginal increase in membership fees and fundraising for the Network;

(c) Deepening cooperation among Member institutions through networking, activities and exchange of information on best practices;

(d) Expanding activity under G-NEXID’s technical capacity development programme by striving to hold at least two training workshops per year, if not one every quarter;

(e) Concluding work on the creation of an Internet-based platform for the sharing of risk and credit information;

(f) Establishing, among members, credible financing arrangements to support South–South trade through co-financing and offers of bilateral credit lines;

(g) Devising mechanisms to constructively engage small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and SME-support organizations and public institutions, in order to enable SMEs to access information and gain understanding of how to best present their projects to meet banks’ lending criteria;

¹ Economic Community of West African States.

(h) Forging constructive partnerships with organizations and regional economic communities that have been granted observer status, honorary membership, or received an invitation for close collaboration, such as UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre, the International Network for SMEs, the Berne Union, the International Finance Corporation, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

5. The meeting further noted the continued support of the international development partners of the Network and UNCTAD in particular. Participants pledged to deepen cooperation between G-NEXID and UNCTAD within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between the two institutions at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 September 2011, and urged member institutions to support the quadrennial conference of UNCTAD, UNCTAD XIII, by participating fully in the various events of the Conference.
