



**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, Trade Logistics
and Trade Facilitation**

Tenth session

Geneva, 17–19 July 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation.
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 Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation 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 tenth session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above.

3. The topic of the tenth session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation was approved by the Trade and Development Board, on 15 February 2023, at its seventy-third executive session. The selection of the topic is in line with subparagraphs 127 (c), (t), (v) (ii) and (nn) of the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2). Participants at the tenth session will have three days, 17–19 July 2023, to complete the work. A provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached as an annex to this document. A detailed programme will be made available, at the latest, one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/28

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation

4. Trade facilitation reforms have been advancing considerably over recent years, in particular with the entry into force of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization in February 2017, as well as with the inclusion in many regional trade agreements of specific trade facilitation provisions. The implementation of trade facilitation reforms is challenging, as evidenced by experiences from the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. In particular, developing countries and vulnerable economies, such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, are required to address many trade facilitation implementation issues at the same time, as they often begin trade facilitation reforms from a less advanced starting point and are thus confronted with the need for knowledge acquisition, policy and implementation decisions and funding requirements for all issues within a relatively short time frame.

5. The tenth session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation provides an opportunity to reflect on the key issues at stake. Participants will also review good practices and provide recommendations on the best way forward, identify priority action areas, particularly for the most vulnerable group of countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and define the role of relevant stakeholders, including from industry, Government, the public and private sectors and development partners and financial institutions.

6. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note titled “Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation”.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/29 Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated
and climate-smart trade facilitation

Item 4
Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. Experts at the meeting may wish to authorize the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under of the authority of the Chair, to prepare a final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (maximum, 10 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting.

The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible, addressed to the Trade Facilitation Section of the Trade Logistics Branch, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: tfs@UNCTAD.org.

Annex

Provisional schedule of the meeting

| | <i>Monday</i> <i>17 July 2023</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> <i>18 July 2023</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> <i>19 July 2023</i> |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| 10 a.m.– 1 p.m. | <p>Opening plenary</p> <p>Opening statements</p> <p>Item 1 Election of officers</p> <p>Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p>Item 3 Introduction of topic: Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation</p> <p>Informal meetings</p> <p>Item 3 (continued) Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation</p> | <p>Informal meetings</p> <p>Item 3 (continued) Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated</p> | <p>Informal meetings</p> <p>Item 3 (continued) Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated</p> |
| 3–6 p.m. | <p>Informal meetings</p> <p>Item 3 (continued) Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated</p> | <p>Informal meetings</p> <p>Item 3 (continued) Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated</p> | <p>Informal meetings</p> <p>Consideration of the Chair's summary for the meeting</p> <p>Closing plenary</p> <p>Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting</p> |