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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics
and Trade Facilitation**
Eleventh session
Geneva, 23–25 October 2024
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. Maritime transport in times of polycrisis.
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 eleventh session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above.
3. The topic of the eleventh session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation was approved by the Trade and Development Board, on 23 November 2023, at its seventy-fourth executive session (see TD/B/EX(74)/4, chapter III, para. 92, and annex IV). Participants at the eleventh session will have three days, 23–25 October 2024, 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.7/31

Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3

Maritime transport in times of polycrisis

4. Maritime transport and logistics are currently at a turning point amid a fast-evolving operations landscape. Lying at the heart of international freight transportation systems that link supply chains and deliver globalized trade, the sector continues to navigate the post coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic world, while being increasingly shaken by disruption. More than ever, the sector needs to respond and adapt to disruption and volatility driven by a confluence of factors. In addition to heightened geopolitical tensions and climate-induced factors, the sector needs to address and navigate macroeconomic uncertainty, inward-looking policies and protectionist measures, shifts in supply chain design and globalization patterns and growing electronic commerce. Maritime transport and logistics also need to integrate risk assessment and vulnerability reduction criteria, as well as take up digitalization and data-driven business models. Furthermore, as the sector is under pressure to shift towards a path of low and zero carbon, it needs to accelerate its energy transition and adopt green technologies and cleaner alternative fuels.
5. In this context and against a backdrop of more frequent disruptions culminating in interconnected crises, the expert meeting will focus on key thematic areas relevant to advancing sustainability, low-carbon and resilient maritime transport and trade in a time of polycrisis, while taking into account the outcome of relevant global key policy processes, including the Global Supply Chain Forum convened on 21–24 May 2024 in Bridgetown by UNCTAD and the Government of Barbados.

6. Bearing in mind ongoing UNCTAD work in support of the sustainability and resilience-building agenda in freight transport and logistics, experts will discuss key issues at stake and aim at identifying priority actions to support maritime transport and logistics in navigating disruptions while building resilience and advancing the sustainability agenda. A particular focus will be on developing countries, small island developing States, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

7. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note titled “Maritime transport in times of polycrisis”.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/32

Maritime transport in times of polycrisis

Item 4

Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. 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 Transport Section of the Trade Logistics Branch, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: transport.section@unctad.org.

Annex

Provisional schedule of the meeting

	<i>Monday</i> <i>23 October 2024</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> <i>24 October 2024</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>25 October 2024</i>
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Opening plenary Opening statements Item 1 Election of officers Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Item 3 Introduction of topic: Maritime transport in times of polycrisis Informal meetings Item 3 (continued) Maritime transport in times of polycrisis	Informal meetings Item 3 (continued) Maritime transport in times of polycrisis	Informal meetings Item 3 (continued) Maritime transport in times of polycrisis
3–6 p.m.	Informal meetings Item 3 (continued) Maritime transport in times of polycrisis	Informal meetings Item 3 (continued) Maritime transport in times of polycrisis	Informal meetings Consideration of the Chair’s summary for the meeting Closing plenary Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting