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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Second session
Geneva, 14-15 February 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on 14 February 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first session held in Geneva on 8-9 March 2007, the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) decided to hold its second annual session in the week of 11-15 February 2008 (ECE/CECI/ICP/2007/2).
2. The objectives of the second session are to review the outputs and activities carried out since the first session, including in other relevant thematic areas under the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), to address and discuss topical substantive issues related to the TOS-ICP Programme of Work in a structured way, and to review the implementation plan for 2008.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/ie/welcome/dc/regfe.pdf> and transmit it to the secretariat either by email (ceci@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 01 78). Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, (a map is attached to the registration form) for the issuance of an identification badge. Delegates encountering problems in accessing the Palais des Nations should contact the secretariat at ceci@unece.org or +41 22 917 15 55. Additional information for delegates is available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/ceci/addinf.html>.

3. A tentative timetable of the session is presented under Heading IV.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Substantive segment
3. Review of the work done since the first meeting
4. Implementation plan for 2008
5. Capacity-building activities
6. Other business

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Team will adopt its agenda.

Item 2. Substantive segment

5. This substantive segment is envisaged as a round table policy seminar with the participation of policymakers, innovation practitioners and representatives of international organizations, industry associations and academia, in addition to members of the Team. The deliberations under this item will be organized as a segment, so that to provide an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to participate in the discussions on an equal footing.

6. The discussions will be structured around a number of thematic areas and presentations, leaving space for interaction between participants. The topics to be addressed will reflect the tentative topical orientation of the Programme of Work for 2008 agreed in the first session of the TOS-ICP (ECE/CECI/ICP/2007/2) and will be built on the outcomes of the activities of the Team in 2007.

7. In accordance with the strategic orientation of the TOS-ICP outputs towards future capacity-building activity, the discussions would also address the day-to-day practicalities of implementing innovation and competitiveness policies.

8. The detailed programme will be structured in consultations with the TOS-ICP Bureau and will be made available no later than one week before the session.

Item 3. Review of the work done since the first session

9. To introduce the discussion, the Bureau will brief the Team members on the outcomes of the work done in 2007:

- (a) Comparative review "Creating a conducive environment for higher competitiveness and effective national systems. Lessons learned from the experience of UNECE countries".
- (b) Synopsis of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation.

10. The secretariat will then brief the Team members on work done in other focus areas of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme in order to put the Teams' work into a broader perspective and help identify links and possibilities for cross-sectoral work.

11. Members of the Team will then have the opportunity to take stock of past activities, discuss effective means for the dissemination of the Team's outputs and reflect on how to exploit synergies with the work that is being done in other focus areas. In view of the increased emphasis in the CECI programme of work on capacity-building activities, the Team may consider how the materials produced in 2007 could be used and adapted to contribute to fulfil this mandate.

Item 4. Implementation plan for 2008

12. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work for 2007-2008 in focus area "Creating a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness" and the TOS-ICP Terms of Reference adopted by CECI, the Team is expected to contribute to the following main activities and outputs in 2008:

- (a) Comparative review of government policies facilitating technological development and innovation; and
- (b) Synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development.

13. At its first session held in March 2007, the TOS-ICP, taking into account the results of the Survey of experts undertaken by the secretariat (ECE/CECI/ICP/2007/3), suggested a tentative topical orientation for these mandated outputs:

- (a) Public policy measures aimed at enhancing the innovative and absorptive capacities of firms: selected issues;
- (b) Good practice in the establishment of seed-and-breed innovating institutions (science/technology parks, centres of excellence, technology incubators, innovation centres, etc.); the role of public policy; and
- (c) Creating supportive framework conditions (related to the above).

14. The Team will discuss the implementation details of the work envisaged for 2008, including the concrete orientation of the work to be undertaken and the deadlines for its completion.

15. In its deliberations, the Team is encouraged to bear in mind the increased importance of capacity-building activities in the future work of CECI. One specific related aspect to be addressed is the possible transformation of the policy-related documents prepared by the Team into training materials and modules and other toolkits that could be used for capacity-building purposes.

Item 5. Capacity-building activities*

16. The CECI programme of work will increasingly focus on demand-driven technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in requesting countries with economies in transition, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

17. Participants are encouraged to bring to the meeting any expression of interest by the UNECE Member States and other stakeholders to provide various types of extrabudgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including organization of seminars, twinning schemes or networking initiatives) to the activities in this thematic area. The members of the Team, including in particular from countries with economies in transition, are also asked to present their views on specific frameworks that could serve as a reference to guide capacity-building activities.

Item 6. Other business

18. Among other possible issues, the Team will consider procedures for the adoption of the report of the meeting of the TOS-ICP. The Secretariat proposes that the report be prepared not later than ten days following the meeting and that it be reviewed and adopted by the Bureau (Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons)) on behalf of the TOS-ICP. The Team will also decide on the date for its third annual session.

IV. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Time	Agenda items
Thursday, 14 February 2008	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda Item 2. Substantive segment
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 2. Substantive segment (cont'd)
Friday, 15 February 2008	
10:00-13:00	Item 3. Review of the work done since the first session Item 4. Implementation plan for 2008
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 4. Implementation plan for 2008 (cont'd) Item 5. Capacity-building activities Item 6. Other business

* The secretariat will consult with participants on this issue also at the margins of the meeting.