Annex A

The four tracks of the Conference

a) Infrastructure services and commodity exports. This topic will address the role of services such as communications, finance, transport, distribution and logistics in the exports of natural resources. One way to measures their contribution is through the value added of those services embodied in the exports of natural resources. This item will also look at the impact of service sector productivity and performance on the exports of natural resource intensive products.

b) Incorporation of specialised services to upgrade (processed) natural resources. This topic will look into how the incorporation of specialized services in the value chain of natural resources can improve the intrinsic (product) and extrinsic characteristics of commodities and how these can increase their differentiation potential in the world market. Examples are environmental and technical quality standards and certifications, branding, and marketing. This topic also looks into the role of innovation in natural resource sectors.

c) The development of specialised services linked to exports of (processed) commodities. This track will focus on the presence and development of specialized service providers for natural resource sectors. Many of these services have matured in the domestic market, after which they became exporters to neighbouring and other export markets. Examples include professional and marketing services, technological services, and business services. This track also looks at the attraction of FDI in these sectors.

d) Public policies for the development of specialized service providers that add value to natural resources, with a focus on development and innovation. Examples of policies are regulations, institutions, trade agreements, specific incentives, and specialized education.