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NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development Third and Fourth Sessions

Geneva, 14–15 December 2015

The third and the fourth sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development will be held on 14–15 December 2015 in Room VII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, 14 December.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Sectoral transformation, diversification and capital accumulation that breed social inclusiveness are among the key drivers of development. The trends in sectoral composition of value added and employment, and the progress and setbacks indicate that such processes do not result spontaneously from market forces alone, but require the action of social and economic actors, including developmental States.

The objective of the multi-year expert meeting is to exchange views, experiences and lessons learned regarding policies and measures at all levels for devising approaches to combine and manage the process of structural transformation, economic diversification and social inclusion, especially under the constraints set by the current global economic environment. Within this context, industrial policy emerges as a relevant element in multilateral approaches to foster potential linkages for structural change, coordinate the process of capital accumulation and achieve a balance between productivity and employment.

Historical evidence indicates differentiated paths not only in terms of value-added processes and structural transformation, but also in terms of the employment patterns that emerge for women and youth. As structural economic transformation also modifies the social structure, changing policy needs and priorities should be supported by an enabling policy environment to address the social and political aspects of inclusive economic transformation.

Productive diversification, technological upgrade and structural change are keys to generate sustained growth paths, in particular because they contribute to the expansion of domestic demand and lead to increased employment. In this process, developing and transition economies will have to find a proper balance between domestic, regional and international markets that may provide space for industrialization, given the present constraints on global demand and policy environment.

The objectives of these sessions of the expert meeting will be pursued through presentations by experts, an exchange of experiences and lessons learned, and interactive debate. The issues they will address will include the following:

- (a) Policies needed to help improve economic opportunities for all, particularly women and youth;
- (b) An overview of global, regional and national economic situations and likely prospects, and implications for major market opportunities;
- (c) Measures used or measures that may potentially be used to promote sustainable structural transformation and diversification in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;
- (d) The role of national policies in promoting economic catch-up and enhancing the benefits of productive investment – including employment generation and skills upgrading, infrastructural development, a shift to higher value-added activities, innovation clusters and technological development.

The fourth session, as stipulated in the terms of reference approved by the delegates, will provide a short summary of the previous three sessions.

Participation

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development](#). Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: +41 22 917 0214; e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have a good knowledge of the current international economic framework and proven expertise in the way that developmental actions, including macroeconomic and industrial policies, impact on production diversification, structural transformation and technological upgrading. They are expected to analyse the implementation and results of policies aimed at promoting productive investment, generating employment of good quality, improving income distribution and strengthening domestic markets, and analyse to what extent there has been an improvement in social inclusion, particularly related to women and youth.

The meeting may also be of interest to experts from research institutions, civil society and the private sector, whose focus is on the same subjects. Member States of UNCTAD are requested to inform the secretariat of the names of their participating experts at an early date, not later than 1 December 2015. Specialized agencies and international and regional intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category wishing to participate as observers are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by 1 December 2015. There is no limit to the number of experts, including from Governments, who can participate in the meeting. Participants who wish to be panellists should contact UNCTAD no later than 1 December 2015.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (5–12 pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda, which will be available on the UNCTAD website. These papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be sent by 1 December 2015 to the coordinators in the UNCTAD secretariat whose contact details are provided below.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds in the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts at the time of nomination, funds may be allocated to finance the participation of a limited

number of officially nominated experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Governments requiring funding are therefore invited to request this in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that funds currently available in the dedicated trust fund are very limited (up to a total of two experts for each meeting), and nominations shall be considered based on that availability. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts, on the principle of equitable geographical representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular, least developed countries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than 25 November 2015 and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Mailing address;
- Telephone and fax numbers;
- E-mail address;
- Name of a contact person in the respective permanent mission in Geneva.

Once the list of experts to be financed has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations – that is, the use of the least-costly fare will be applied.

Background documents

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document [TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/7](#). To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note, which will be circulated as document [TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/8](#).

Logistics

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E (Bâtiment E) of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations, and visitors will therefore be dropped off at the gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinators in the substantive divisions, tel: +41 22 917 5401, 41 22 917 5857 or +41 22 917 5881; fax: +41 22 917 0389; e-mail: alfredo.calcagno@unctad.org, elissa.braunstein@unctad.org or karen.mulweye@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

17 November 2015