



GDS/MISC/2016/1  
(16/12gd)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation**

#### **Fourth session**

**Geneva, 14–15 April 2016**

The Multi-year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 14 April 2016, in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations.

#### **Background and purpose of the meeting**

The fourth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting will be held in accordance with the terms of reference approved by the Bureau of the Trade and Development Board. The objective of this session is to discuss how to improve all forms of cooperation and partnership for trade and development with a view to accomplishing internationally agreed development goals. In particular, it will focus on identifying how developing countries can collaboratively build capacity to weather economic crises, ensure macroeconomic stability and enhance long-term resilience in ways that generate inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Timely and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals by developing and transition economies warrants a supportive external economic environment. However, the effects of the 2008 financial crisis and the ensuing recession on trade, financial flows, investment, official development assistance and migration continue to reverberate throughout the developing economies. Further, the recent decline in capital inflows, external earnings and fiscal revenues will threaten the development outlook for years to come. These dynamics critically affect the capabilities of developing countries to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals, such as accelerating sustainable and inclusive growth, ending poverty, curbing hunger and disease, and building resilience.

An effective response to the challenges arising from recurrent global financial and economic crises requires not only comprehensive actions at the global level, but also increased cooperation among countries of the South. This session of the multi-year expert meeting will explore these challenges and opportunities. It will focus in particular on how to improve macroeconomic management and economic performance in ways that promote the timely and effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as follows: by sharing best practices and resources and ensuring policy coordination among developing countries, and making full use of existing policy space. Experts from the private and public sectors are expected to bring to the meeting their own perspectives and to highlight specific issues in connection with their areas of expertise. The meeting will be divided into three sessions, as follows:

- (a) The opening session will explore how macroeconomic policies can build resilience in the short term, focusing on countercyclical monetary and fiscal policies, as well as financial policies designed to blunt the destabilizing effects of capital flows and counter external shocks. Measures at the national, regional and global levels will be analysed;

- (b) The second session will explore how long-term policies for industrialization and diversification can enhance both macroeconomic stability and resilience and access the developmental promises of structural transformation. Best practices, and the constraints and opportunities posed by external economic and institutional environments will be key features of the discussion;
- (c) The third session will draw on the lessons of the first two by examining the potential for different models of international cooperation to manage global economic crises and increase development capabilities in the long run, including traditional North–South cooperation, South–South cooperation and triangular partnership models. It will also explore how UNCTAD can promote such cooperation.

## Participation

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation](#). Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the following address:

UNCTAD secretariat  
Intergovernmental Support Service  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Fax: 41 22 917 0214  
E-mail: [meetings@unctad.org](mailto:meetings@unctad.org).

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts to participate in the meeting at an early date, no later than **31 March 2016**. Experts will contribute in their personal capacities. They are expected to have proven expertise in the subject and may be selected from government institutions, academia, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Experts may also be invited as resource persons. Specialized agencies and 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 the same date.

## 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, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Governments requiring funding are therefore invited to explicitly request this in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that funds currently available in the dedicated trust fund are very limited, 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, the principle of equitable geographical representation and the needs of beneficiaries. Any changes of nominees will be considered to be new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financial assistance should be received no later than **14 March 2016** and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

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

Once the list of experts to receive financial assistance 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 and contributed papers**

The provisional agenda and annotations for the meeting will be circulated. To facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat will prepare background documents that, along with further information about the meeting, will be made available on the UNCTAD website ([www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)) under the heading "Meetings". Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit in advance brief papers related to their studies, findings and/or country experiences. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

### **Logistics**

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. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; therefore, visitors will be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service grants special clearance.

### **Contact details**

All other enquiries should be addressed to:

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CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Fax: 41 22 917 0044  
E-mail: [elissa.braunstein@unctad.org](mailto:elissa.braunstein@unctad.org) or [nathalie.bois@unctad.org](mailto:nathalie.bois@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

24 February 2016