



ALDC/MISC/2017/3
(17/174gd)

NOTIFICATION

Expert Meeting on the Ways and Means of Improving the Implementation of Priority Areas Agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action

Geneva, 6–7 November 2017

The Expert Meeting on Ways and Means of Improving the Implementation of Priority Areas Agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action will be held from 6 to 7 November 2017, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 6 November.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The expert meeting is organized pursuant to the decision of member States, as contained in the agreed conclusions in the report of the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board (see TD/B/EX(64)/2), which request UNCTAD “to organize a single-year expert meeting dedicated to discussion of ways and means of improving the implementation of priority areas agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and focused on its goals and targets related to productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in global exports” (agreed conclusions 530 (EX-LXIV), para. 10). The objective of the expert meeting is, therefore, to seek ways and means for fostering productive capacities, structural transformation and diversification of exports in the least developed countries. It will also examine the respective roles of Governments and the private sector in building productive capacities and accelerating transformative development in the least developed countries. This will include discussions and exchange of views on the role of development and trade partners of the least developed countries as well as international trade in building productive capacities.

Participation

Registration should be completed online using the following link: [Expert Meeting on the Ways and Means of Improving the Implementation of Priority Areas Agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action](#).

Member States are requested to nominate experts by 23 October 2017. The meeting may also be of interest to experts from research institutions, civil society and the private sector with experience on trade and development policy formulation and implementation in the least developed countries. No limit is set on the number of experts, including from Governments, who may participate in the meeting. Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by the same date.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the meeting and non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category that wish to participate as observers are requested to inform the secretariat of the names of their representatives by 23 October 2017.

Nominations and communications concerning representation should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0214; email: meetings@unctad.org and regina.ledesma@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds, UNCTAD will finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from least developed countries. Governments of least developed countries requiring funding are therefore invited to request this explicitly in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that there are very limited funds available at this time. The decision as to which experts should receive funding will be based on the following factors: direct involvement and expertise of nominated experts, the principle of equitable geographical and gender representation, and needs of beneficiaries. Any nomination changes will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than 20 October and should be accompanied by the following items: (a) curriculum vitae, (b) postal and email addresses; (c) telephone and fax numbers of nominees; and (d) 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.

Background documents and contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/EM.9/1. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document entitled "Improving implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, goals and targets related to productive capacities and doubling the share of the least developed countries in global exports" (TD/B/C.I/EM.9/2).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (about five pages) related to the issues contained in the provisional agenda and to their country's experience.

Logistics

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. 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; visitors will therefore be dropped off at the designated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the United Nations compound unless the Security Service grants special clearance.

Further information and contact details

All administrative enquires including travel arrangements for experts funded by UNCTAD should be addressed to Ms. Regina Ledesma, tel.: +41 22 917 5055, email: regina.ledesma@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

12 October 2017