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NOTIFICATION

Ad hoc expert meeting Measuring shipping connectivity and performance: The need for statistics and data

**Room XXV, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland, 15 May 2017**

The ad hoc expert meeting entitled “Measuring Shipping Connectivity and Performance: The Need for Statistics and Data” will be held in Room XXV of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 15 May 2017, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The meeting will bring together experts from varied backgrounds to discuss the role of data in supporting performance-based approaches in maritime transport and explore ways in which existing data limitations can be effectively addressed to support improved and sustainable planning and management of maritime transport activity, as well as to promote evidence-based maritime transport policymaking.

Background and key issues

Transport is a strategic economic sector that enables international trade, supports productive capacities and promotes economic integration, growth and development. By providing physical access to markets, transport determines the ability of countries to participate in the global trading system and shapes their trade competitiveness. Within transport, the critical importance of shipping and ports as the backbone of international trade and globalization cannot be overemphasized. It is estimated that over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade in terms of volume, and 70 per cent in terms of value is carried by sea. This share is even larger in many developing countries, where more than 90 per cent of imports and exports are moved onboard ships.

The political momentum generated by global processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have emphasized the need for all economic sectors, including maritime transport, to monitor and measure performance and track progress towards the achievement of economic, social and environmental targets. Indicators measuring the performance of the maritime transport sector with multidimensional metrics span a range of dimensions, such as efficiency, cost-effectiveness, productivity, profitability, connectivity, access, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability. Increasingly, these dimensions are recognized as critical for maritime business and its users, as well as for Governments and policymakers.

As the development of key indicators depends heavily on the availability and quality of data and statistics, it is necessary to invest in the acquisition, compilation and management of relevant data and to ensure that such data is made available in order to close existing gaps in maritime transport data.

The ad hoc expert meeting will build on the momentum of the following:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets and indicators

- The focus in 2017 on physical and transport connectivity as a lead indicator of trade and economic integration (for example, in the World Trade Organization Global Review of Aid for Trade, work on air connectivity under the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association, the Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance Initiative, the International Transport Forum Summit 2017 and the forthcoming UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2017)
- Potential of big data to generate critical maritime transport data

Issues to be considered at the meeting include the following:

- Identifying current data requirements in maritime transport
- Improving understanding of the complex statistical aspects of developing performance measures in maritime transport
- Exploring the challenges associated with organizing, integrating and analysing data in maritime transport
- Sharing good practice and experiences in the use of data to measure performance, including in terms of connectivity, access, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability
- Considering the potential for big data to generate critical maritime transport data
- Engaging with relevant data providers and considering areas of potential cooperation and data sharing

Registration

Registration should be completed online by using the following link:
<https://reg.unog.ch/event/18883/>

Logistics

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

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges from 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 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; visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

Enquiries concerning substantive issues should be addressed to Ms. H. Benamara (fax: 41 22 917 0050, e-mail: hassiba.benamara@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

7 April 2017