



DITC/TNCD/MISC/2018/1
(18/06gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development Sixth session

Geneva, 7–8 May 2018

The sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will be held on 7 and 8 May 2018 in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 7 May 2018.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Services are key to economic and human development, as they are a major contributor to output, jobs, investment and trade. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a number of goals and targets specific to services, including those relating to water and sanitation (Goal 6) and energy (Goal 7). The achievement of several other goals and targets will be facilitated by services. For example, improvements in logistics services will contribute to the reduction of food losses under Goal 12. Trade in services, which has increased steadily over the last generation, can enhance this role of services. The sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, which has a focus on water and sanitation, energy and food-related logistic services, will examine ways and means to facilitate and expand services trade with respect to achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda. Best-fit practices and policy recommendations will also be explored, including through exchanges of national and regional experiences.

Participation

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia, research institutions and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Online registration at: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development](#) is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required for inclusion in the list of participants. Early registration is advisable so that timely approval may be received for the issuance of a ground pass to the Palais des Nations. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission concerned in Geneva will suffice.

Further enquiries regarding registration 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.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, UNCTAD will finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries and countries with economies in

transition. Governments requiring funding are invited to explicitly request financing 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 direct involvement and expertise of the experts, principles of equitable geographical and gender-based representation, and needs of beneficiaries, in particular the least developed countries. Changes to nominations of experts will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received **no later than 16 March 2018** and should be accompanied by the following items for each nominee: curriculum vitae, postal and email addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and name of contact person in the relevant 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.

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/MEM.4/16. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document, which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/17. Documents will be made available on the [UNCTAD website](#).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (5–12 pages) related to the issues contained in the provisional agenda. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be sent in advance to the Division on International Trade and Commodities (see contact details below).

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. 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.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the Division on International Trade and Commodities, tel: 41 22 917 5691; fax: 41 22 917 0044; email: tncdb@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

27 February 2018