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NOTIFICATION

Ad hoc Expert Meeting on Domestic Requirements and Support Measures in Green Sectors: Economic and Environmental Effectiveness and Implications for Trade

Geneva, 13–14 June 2013

An Ad hoc Expert Meeting, entitled: "Domestic Requirements and Support Measures in Green Sectors: Economic and Environmental Effectiveness and Implications for Trade" will be held on 13 and 14 June 2013 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 13 June, in Room XXI, Palais des Nations. Documents concerning this Ad hoc Expert Meeting can be found on the UNCTAD website (<http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=325>).

Background and purpose of the meeting

A lot of attention is now being paid to green industrial policy and its interface with trade policy. Trade and investment can be powerful drivers of green growth, opening up possibilities for low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive development paths that would otherwise be impossible. Trade policy in the pursuit of such growth can also be contentious, creating both winners and losers.

One of the most critical questions concerns the ways governments pursue green industrial policy and steer their economies toward competitive production of new green goods and services. Given the lack of coordinated multilateral progress on key global environmental issues, bottom-up policy approaches are bound to prevail. This may be appropriate, since each country faces distinct development circumstances. However, these approaches may become a source of tension as quite costly, differentiated policies take hold and have competitiveness consequences.

Commercial tensions surrounding domestic requirements and support for renewable energy have brought into focus problems surrounding what may be considered objectively desirable measures. What do we know about the economic and environmental effectiveness of these measures? What are their actual or potential implications for competitiveness and trade? Should green sectors, e.g. solar and wind, or certain activities with these sectors be treated as a special case? Is there scope for commercial and science diplomacy in bringing objective evidence to bear on decision making and promoting common understanding?

The meeting will address these and other, related questions, with some of the leading experts in the field who can easily cross the boundaries between analysis, bottom line decision making and trade policy and negotiations.



Participation

Experts, who will be participating in the meeting in a personal capacity, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject matter and may be drawn from governmental or non-governmental organizations, private entities or academia. The meeting may be of particular interest to trade policy officials and practitioners, trade negotiators, representatives of environmental authorities, business associations and private companies operating in the renewable energy sectors. Experts from international organizations dealing with issues relevant to the meeting will also be invited.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the Ad hoc Expert 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 **7 June 2013**.

Background documents

The background documents for the meeting comprise a provisional annotated agenda, conference room paper by the secretariat and a study prepared specially for the meeting, are available on the UNCTAD website at <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=325>.

Logistics

The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in Room XXI. The meeting will be conducted in English only - simultaneous interpretation will not be available.

Upon arrival, participants are requested, before entering the Palais des Nations, 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 the E Building (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 entrance gates. Furthermore, **luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.**

Further information and contact details

All 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(0)22 917 0056; *e-mail*: meetings@unctad.org). All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinators in the substantive division, Alexey Vikhlyaev, (*tel*: +41 (0) 22 917 5618; *fax*: +41 (0) 22 917 0247; *e-mail*: alexey.vikhlyaev@unctad.org); Lalen Lleander, (*tel*: +41 (0) 22 917 2116; *fax*: +41 (0) 22 917 0247; *email*: lalen.lleander@unctad.org).

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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