

GLOBAL COMMODITIES FORUM 13-14 APRIL 2015
PALAIS DES NATIONS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**TRADE IN
COMMODITIES:
CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

UNCTAD will host the sixth annual Global Commodities Forum on 13-14 April 2015 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Participants will examine and debate the theme of: "Trade in commodities: Challenges and opportunities." Please see the attached preliminary programme for information on the sessions, presenters and topics.

UNCTAD launched the GCF in 2010, as a high-level, neutral, and multi-stakeholder platform to deliberate issues affecting commodity production, finance and trade, with a special focus on commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDC). The Forum's objective is to generate partnerships and innovative policy ideas for public, private and civil society leaders who work on issues related to commodity-based development.

THE PROGRAMME

On the first day of the Forum, panels will reflect on the significant shifts seen in commodities markets over the past year, especially the fall in oil prices, and debate their implications for resource-rich developing countries, as well as for other stakeholders in the commodities value chain. This stock-taking will include a session, organized in collaboration with the OECD, devoted to the policy space available to raw material exporting countries, including, for example, the increased use of export restrictions by these countries since 2008.

The latter sessions of the 2015 GCF will look forward, examining the development implications of the "new normal" in commodities markets and trade policy. For example, the programme will close with a session that re-examines the "commodities supercycle" in the current context of lower prices. Representatives from exporting countries will debate what lower commodities prices mean for their budgets, national development plans and more generally for their interaction with the global trading system.

For developing countries, recent developments in commodities markets and trade policy have changed the context in which they pursue their development plans. In debating their strategies and outlooks at the 2015 Global Commodities Forum, participants will inform their own work in navigating recent changes, towards a more sustainable, inclusive commodity-based development.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The GCF assembles stakeholders from throughout the commodities economy, including high-level representatives from national governments, businesses and international organizations, as well as experts from civil society, academia and the press.

With its focus on the development implications of recent trends in commodities markets, this year's programme will be of particular interest to experts working on, for example, commodity trade policy and the use of commodity trade revenues to finance development projects.

FUNDING

The first three editions of the GCF were funded mainly by a large grant from the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). The GCF has also received generous financial support from: the governments of Switzerland, China and France; Gaznat; Afrexim Bank and Audit Control and Expertise (ACE).

If your organization has a stake in the responsible and inclusive development of the commodity economy, please consider supporting the GCF. We welcome you to contact us at the coordinates below.

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