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NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at all Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Geneva, 16–17 April 2013

The first meeting of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at all Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development will take place from 16 to 17 April 2013 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reaffirmed that development-centred globalization sets the stage for inclusive growth and development and contributes towards reducing poverty and creating jobs. It agreed that efforts to strengthen and improve the functioning of the global economy continue to be important, and that while sustained economic growth is important, it is also necessary to broaden the basis of growth, and that an enabling environment at all levels is a necessity for this.

The Trade and Development Board, at its fifty-fifth executive session held from 3 to 5 July and 15 October 2012, approved the following topic for a multi-year expert meeting: “Enhancing the enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development”. The first meeting will address “Prospects for building resilience to external shocks and mitigating their impact on trade and development”.

Better economic performance by developing rather than by developed countries has been a feature of the world economy over the past several years. A lower incidence of external shocks combined with domestic policy changes that have improved developing countries’ resilience to external shocks explain this performance. However, the global enabling economic environment remains fraught with uncertainties and downside risks. To guard against such uncertainties and risks, countries need to enhance resilience to potential external shocks with a view to mitigating adverse impacts on trade and development.

This UNCTAD expert meeting will address external shocks affecting trade and development within the context of building resilience, and will examine:

- (a) Measures needed to foster policy buffers to build resilience to external shocks;
- (b) The role of the enabling economic environment at all levels in supporting resilience building;
- (c) Best practices and challenges in collecting and using statistics on international trade and development to build resilience to external shocks.



The subject of the meeting is of strategic importance for government officials and other experts to gain an enhanced understanding of external shocks, within the context of building resilience and mitigating their impact on trade and development, to identify possible policies and measures to build resilience to external shocks, and to enhance their understanding of how statistics can help build resilience to external shocks and to mitigate their impact on trade and development.

Participation

The meeting will be of interest to government officials and private-sector representatives involved in macroeconomic management, in particular regarding trade and financial flows and related statistics. Government officials and other experts will also be particularly interested in the discussions on the global economy and development management.

Each session of the meeting will feature presentations on the specific topics by international expert panellists identified by the secretariat, followed by an interactive discussion with delegates and expert participants.

UNCTAD member States are requested to nominate experts no later than **2 April 2013**. Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject and may be selected from governmental and non-governmental organizations, private entities or academia.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the 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 the same date.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds in the trust fund for financing the participation of experts, it may be possible to 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 funds currently available in the dedicated trust fund are very limited (up to a total of three experts) and nominations shall be considered based on that availability. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts, on the principle of equitable geographical representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular, least developed countries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received no later than **16 March 2013** and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

- (a) Curriculum vitae;
- (b) Mailing address;
- (c) Telephone and fax number;
- (d) E-mail address;
- (e) Name of a contact person in the 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 – that is, the use of the least-costly fare will be applied.



Background documents and contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.1/MEM.5/1. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issue paper, to be circulated as TD/B/C.1/MEM.5/2, which sets the background to the discussions and highlights fundamental questions to be addressed during the expert meeting. In addition, experts are referred to other UNCTAD publications that are of high relevance to the meeting's discussions, in particular the *Trade and Development Report 2012* (UNCTAD/TDR/2012).

In addition, all experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers related to one or several of the issues contained in the provisional agenda, particularly with reference to their country experiences. These papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Logistics

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations. 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 United Nations Security Service gives special clearance.**

Further information and contact details

Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: +41 22 917 0214; e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinators in the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, tel.: +41 22 917 5857; e-mail: raja.khalidi@unctad.org and joerg.mayer@unctad.org.

(signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

21 February 2013