



SUC/MISC/2013/10
(14/01ams)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

Geneva, 9–10 April 2014

Under the Doha Mandate, the sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held from 9 to 10 April 2014, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 9 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The Accra Accord (para. 208) mandated the Trade and Development Board to establish a multi-year expert meeting on commodities. The expert meeting will continue to be convened in the post-Doha 2013–2016 period, as the outcomes of UNCTAD XIII reaffirm and build upon the Accra Accord, which remains valid and relevant (Doha Mandate, para. 17). As set out by the Doha Mandate (paras. 4 and 5), the purpose of the meeting is to enable commodity-dependent developing countries to identify measures in order to secure, as a priority, adequate access to food and energy, to use commodity revenues for economic growth and poverty reduction, and to cope with the challenges of commodity price volatility. The terms of reference of the meeting were approved by the Trade and Development Board in December 2012.

The Meeting is expected to provide a forum for sharing country experiences with a view to identifying and implementing appropriate policies at the national, regional and international levels; to addressing the impacts of the volatility of commodity prices on vulnerable groups; and to helping commodity-dependent developing countries formulate sustainable and inclusive development strategies, including those that promote value addition and economic diversification. The Meeting will identify the ways and means for these countries, particularly those in Africa and least developed countries, to maximize development benefits from commodity production and trade, including the promotion of diversification and the integration of natural resources policies into their national development strategies (Doha Mandate, para. 31(i)). In accordance with paragraph 56 (g) of the Doha Mandate, it will share the experiences of developing countries to achieve more sustainable and strengthened agricultural production, food security, investment in agriculture and export capacity, taking into account the special needs of African countries, least developed countries and net food-importing developing countries, as well as the needs of small-scale farmers. The Meeting also aims to focus on the empowerment of women and youth. The Meeting will generate lessons learned from those experiences and identify practical options and actionable outcomes for addressing at the national, regional and international levels the opportunities and challenges of long-standing commodity trade and development issues. It will also review and evaluate the contribution of UNCTAD in assisting developing countries in the area of commodities.

Participation

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts no later than **7 March 2014**. Experts, who will attend the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject and may be selected from government ministries such as those dealing with trade, agriculture and natural resources (e.g. minerals and metals, oil and gas), as well as from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives and non-governmental organizations. In addition, experts from international and regional organizations will be invited as resource persons.

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 **25 March 2014**.

Financial assistance

Depending on availability at the time of funding, financial assistance by the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Governments requiring funding are invited to specifically request financing in their letters of nomination. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts in commodity sectors to be covered by the meeting, 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 **21 February 2014** 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 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 – 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, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/24. In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared two background documents, which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/25 (Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development) and TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/26 (Natural resources sector: Review and identification of opportunities for commodity-based trade and development).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (approximately five pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda for the meeting, and on issues relating to their country's experience. These papers will be made available at 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 Security Service gives special clearance.

Nominations and enquiries

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

All other enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Samuel K. Gayi, Head, Special Unit on Commodities, Office No. E-9030, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10 (tel.: +41 22 917 2131; e-mail: samuel.gayi@unctad.org); or to Ms. Catherine Katongola (tel.: +41 22 917 1648; fax: 41 22 917 0509; e-mail: catherine.katongola@unctad.org), or Ms. Danièle Boglio (tel.: +41 22 917 6286; e-mail: daniele.boglio@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

13 January 2014