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NOTIFICATION

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Implementing the Paris Agreement: Response measures and trade

Geneva, 3 October 2017

The ad hoc expert group meeting entitled “Implementing the Paris Agreement: Response Measures and Trade” will be held on 3 October 2017 at 10 a.m. in room XXVII of the Palais des Nations.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The Paris Agreement opens up the prospects of collective transformation. The most important feature of this transformation is the shared challenge of economic diversification. There is also a related challenge of making this transformation a just and equitable one. In particular, countries will have to deal with its effects in terms of jobs to be gained or lost.

Economic diversification and a just transition of the workforce are now front and centre in the work of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). While the just transition of the workforce is considered an objective, economic diversification is mostly seen as a tool to address the impacts of mitigation measures.

Response measures, in UNFCCC parlance, denote mitigation measures with cross-border impacts. For developed countries, these measures tend to raise competitiveness concerns. For developing countries, they normally mean actual or potential impediments to economic diversification. Trade serves as a transmission mechanism for cross-border impacts and is largely seen as part of the problem, with competitiveness considerations dominating the policy discourse.

At the twenty-second Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, UNCTAD was invited to accompany the technical examination process conducted under the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures. This is an important step in acknowledging the relevance of trade to the work of the forum, implicit in the forum’s name itself.

Response measures are increasingly seen as a form of international cooperation. Trade is traditionally seen through the lens of a competitive relationship, but it also has an enormous cooperation potential. The challenge is to change the approach from one of allocating or shifting burdens among countries through trade restrictive measures, to figuring out ways in which trade could help all countries share the benefits of transforming their economies.

International trade is increasingly used to make goods, not just to sell them. Up to 80 per cent of trade flows take place within global value chains. Within value chains, countries will be looking for and finding various routes for economic diversification and social upgrading. Value chains will also serve as transmitters of resource and environmental costs.

The ad hoc expert meeting is meant to explore the role of global value chains in the interface between response measures and trade. The outcome of the meeting will serve as input into the work of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures. Policy relevant parts of the meeting will be presented at a UNFCCC event during the twenty-third Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017.

Participation and registration

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [Implementing the Paris Agreement: Response Measures and Trade](#).

The meeting may be of particular interest to trade policy officials and practitioners, trade and climate change negotiators, representatives of environmental authorities, business associations and private companies engaged in international trade and that are affected by environmental policies. Experts from international organizations dealing with issues relevant to the briefing session will also be invited.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in 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 email to Alexey Vikhlyaev email alexey.vikhlyaev@unctad.org.

Background documents and agenda

The programme and information concerning the meeting will be available on the UNCTAD website at: [Implementing the Paris Agreement: Response Measures and Trade](#).

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. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E. 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 enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Alexey Vikhlyaev, tel: 41 22 917 5618; fax: 41 22 917 0247; email: alexey.vikhlyaev@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

20 September 2017