



DITC/SUC/MISC/2019/1
(19/01ams)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Eleventh session

Geneva, 15 and 16 April 2019

The eleventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held on 15 and 16 April 2019 in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 15 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The topics for this session were approved by the extended Bureau of the Board in November 2017 and agreed by the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-fifth session, part II, on 4 October 2018. The Nairobi Maafikiano calls upon UNCTAD to “strengthen the capacity of commodity-dependent and net food-importing developing countries to reduce the short-term negative effects of price volatility, through instruments for market risk management” (paragraph 76 (p)). Hence, the meeting will provide a forum for sharing country experiences in addressing the impacts of commodity price risk as well as weather-based risk particularly in commodity-dependent developing countries. Better risk management is expected to stabilize and even increase incomes of commodity producers, helping them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The meeting will identify policies that these countries may pursue to maximize development benefits from commodity production and trade. It will also evaluate the major risks facing the commodity sector in developing countries, with a view to identifying the challenges posed by the impact of large variations in commodity prices and commodity production on economic performance in these countries. Participants will discuss policy options for managing risk in the commodity sector of commodity-dependent developing countries.

Participation

The meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Representatives of other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Online registration for participation in the [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development](#) is mandatory for all those wishing to attend and is required for inclusion in the list of participants. Early registration is advised to allow timely approval and the issuance of ground passes to access the Palais des Nations. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the relevant permanent mission in Geneva will suffice. All enquiries regarding registration should be sent to the Intergovernmental Support Service, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0214; email: meetings-unctad@un.org.

Experts will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities and are expected to have proven expertise in the subject matter. They may be selected from government ministries such as those dealing with trade, industry, agriculture, minerals and metals, oil and gas, and may also be selected from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives and non-governmental organizations.

Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by **14 March 2019**.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries. Governments requiring funding are invited to specifically request financing in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that there are limited funds available. The decision as to which nominated experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the experts, on the principle of equitable geographical and gender representation and on the needs of beneficiaries. Changes in the experts nominated by Governments will be considered new nominations. Nominations with requests for financing should be received no later than 14 March 2019 and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae, mailing and email addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and name of 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.

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.I/MEM.2/44. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared two background notes entitled "Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/45) and "Managing commodity price risk in commodity-dependent developing countries" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/46).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (of about five pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda and to their country's experience.

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 of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or equivalent 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 other enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Officer-in-Charge, Commodities Branch, UNCTAD, E-9018, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel: 41 22 917 1648 or 41 22 917 6286; email: commodities@un.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

1 March 2019