



DTL/TLB/MISC/2019/1
(19/39gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation Seventh session

Geneva, 7–9 May 2019

The seventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be held from 7 to 9 May 2019, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and will commence at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 May.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Following up on the discussions at the sixth session that focused on trade logistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the seventh session will investigate in greater detail how trade facilitation and transit can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Discussions will focus on general trade facilitation reforms and the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which entered into force in February 2017. More than 140 WTO members have ratified the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and are currently implementing its provisions, in many cases with the assistance of international organizations, including UNCTAD. Full implementation of the Agreement is expected to considerably boost international trade and contribute to the development of developing and least developed countries, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to: discuss developments related to trade facilitation and transit issues; consider recent UNCTAD work aimed at assisting developing and least developed countries implementing trade facilitation reforms; and share experiences, including by reviewing best practices associated with new and rapidly evolving technological developments.

Nomination and participation

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the session, through the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation](#). Nominations and communications concerning representation should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0214; emails: meetings@unctad.org and tfs@unctad.org.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in the areas of trade facilitation and transit, no later than 22 April 2019. Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject areas and may be selected from governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector or academia. Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the meeting, and non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category wishing to participate as observers, are requested to register by the same date.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance through the trust fund for financing the participation of experts 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. The decision as to which of the 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 will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received by 29 March 2019 and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; postal 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.7/19. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background document entitled "Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/20.

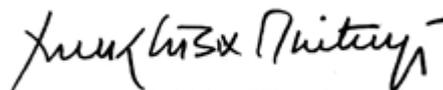
Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (maximum 10 pages) related to their studies, findings and/or national experiences. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the original form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted by 22 April 2019 to the contact provided below.

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 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 concerning substantive issues should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Mr. Poul Hansen; fax: 41 22 917 0050; email: tfs@unctad.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

14 March 2019