



SUC/MISC/2013/1
(13/12ams)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

Geneva, 20–21 March 2013

The fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development (under the Doha Mandate) will be held from 20 to 21 March 2013, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 March.

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). The objective of the meeting is to enable commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDCs), in accordance with the Doha Mandate (paras. 4 and 5), to identify measures in order to secure, as a priority, adequate access to food and energy, use commodity revenues in contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction and cope with the challenges of commodity price volatility. The terms of reference were approved by the Trade and Development Board for the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development in December 2012.

The Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development is expected to provide a forum for sharing country experiences with regard to identifying and implementing appropriate policies, at national, regional and international levels, to address the impacts of the volatility of commodity prices on vulnerable groups, and to support CDDCs in formulating sustainable and inclusive development strategies, including those that promote value addition and economic diversification. The multi-year expert meeting will identify ways and means for CDDCs, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries (LDCs), 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 (para. 31(i)). In accordance with paragraph 56 (g), 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 Africa, LDCs and net food-importing developing countries as well as the needs of small-scale farmers and the empowerment of women and youth. The multi-year expert 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 longstanding commodity trade and development issues. It will also review and evaluate UNCTAD's contribution to assisting developing countries in the area of commodities.



Participation

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts no later than **8 March 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 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 other 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 **8 March 2013**.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability at the time of funding in the trust fund for financing the participation of experts, funds may be made available 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. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on **the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts in infrastructure services 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 **20 February 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.I/MEM.2/21. In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document, which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/22 and is entitled "Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable 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).

(p.p. signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

6 February 2013