



GDS/MISC/2017/1
(17/138gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation First session Geneva, 26–27 October 2017

The first session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation, will be held on 26 and 27 October 2017 in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 26 October.

Background and purpose of the meeting

In line with the terms of reference for the multi-year expert meeting adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its thirty-first special session on 5 April 2017 (TD/B(S-XXXI)/2), the first session will focus on “Inclusive growth – towards a global agenda”. It will directly address the issue underscored in subparagraph 38 (a) of the Nairobi Maafikiano (TD/519/Add.2), which states that UNCTAD should “continue to promote an enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development, including by promoting multilateral solutions to common economic problems”.

The multi-year expert meeting will discuss, in particular, how to sustain inclusive growth and development given difficult global economic circumstances and weak international trade. It will focus on the role that industrial policy can play in making integration into, and upgrading in, global value chains a driver of economic development. Finally, it will examine the opportunities offered by South–South cooperation and regional productive integration.

Nomination and participation

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Please register online through the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment](#).

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts by **27 September 2017**. Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in economic development. The meeting may also be of interest to experts from research institutions, civil society and the private sector, focusing on international trade and, in particular, on global and regional value chains. No limit is set on the number of experts, including from Governments, who may participate in the meeting. Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by the same date. 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 that wish to participate as observers, are requested to inform the secretariat of the names of their representatives by **9 October 2017**.

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; email: meetings@unctad.org.

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. 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 **27 September 2017** and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; mailing address; telephone and fax numbers; email address; 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, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/1. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note entitled "Harnessing international production networks to foster inclusive growth and local productive capacities" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/2).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (5–12 pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda, which will be available on the UNCTAD website. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be sent by **9 October 2017** to the UNCTAD secretariat (contact details 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 other enquiries should be addressed to the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, tel: 41 22 917 5902 or 41 22 917 0389; email: piergiuseppe.fortunato@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

19 September 2017