



SUC/MISC/2018/1
(18/05gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Tenth session Geneva, 25–26 April 2018

The tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held from 25 to 26 April 2018 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The topics for this session were approved at the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Trade and Development Board on 22 November 2017. In accordance with paragraphs 38 (o) and 100 (h) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, the meeting will discuss commodity markets and assess the trade and development implications of commodity dependence for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, giving due attention to sectors relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries. The meeting will provide a forum for sharing country experiences in addressing the impacts of declining commodity prices on vulnerable groups and assisting commodity-dependent developing countries in formulating sustainable and inclusive development strategies to achieve the 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 concentration of exports on a narrow range of commodities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with a view to identifying the challenges posed by commodity price volatility on economic performance in these countries. Participants will discuss policy options for achieving export diversification, both horizontally and through value addition, in 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 at [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development](#) is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Early registration is advised, in order that timely approval may be granted for the issuance of the badges required 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 permanent mission in Geneva will suffice.

All inquiries 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.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 **28 February 2018**.

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 at this time. 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 no later than **28 February 2018** 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 thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/40. 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.2/41) and "Diversification and value addition" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/42).

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 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 Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Officer-in-Charge, Special Unit on Commodities, UNCTAD, E9018, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 1648 or 41 22 917 6286; email: commodities@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

5 February 2018