



DITC/TAB/MISC/2019/4
(19/205gd)

NOTIFICATION

Expert Meeting on Promoting Value Addition and Enhancement of Domestic Productive Capacity through Local Economic Empowerment

**Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Thursday, 12 December 2019, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

UNCTAD will organize an Expert Meeting on Promoting Value Addition and Enhancement of Domestic Productive Capacity through Local Economic Empowerment on 12 December 2019. The meeting will bring together experts from Governments, international organizations, business and academia to discuss the key issues. It will be held in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, and start at 10 a.m.

Promoting value addition and enhancing domestic productive capacity remains important to developing countries as they seek to maximize the contribution of trade to achieving sustainable development. In meeting these objectives, market access conditions under which goods and services are traded may present formidable challenges to developing-country producers and exporters, particularly smallholders, microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The meeting aims to:

- (a) Discuss the policies and strategies needed to ensure diversification that adds value to exports and strengthens and empowers local communities;
- (b) Promote among participants a better understanding of the links between trade and market access beyond tariffs, namely the impact of non-tariff measures and voluntary sustainability standards in trade and productive capacity;
- (c) Discuss how to ensure coherence between trade and other policies in the above-mentioned areas, even in cases where they touch upon sanitary and safety-related policies or environmental protection;
- (d) Cast light on the importance of transparency, regional cooperation and governance with regard to non-tariff measures and voluntary sustainability standards.

Participation

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD, specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general category, as well as academia, research institutions and the private sector. Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in innovative strategies related to promoting value addition and enhancing productive capacity through local economic empowerment by Friday, 15 November 2019. Experts who wish to participate in the meeting in a personal capacity are expected to have proven expertise in the subject areas and may be selected from specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and academia.

Registration

Online registration at <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=2258> is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting. Early registration is advisable, so that timely approval may be received for the issuance of a badge to enter the Palais des Nations. Further enquiries regarding registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, UNCTAD will finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, through the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts. Governments requiring funding are invited to explicitly request financing in their letter of nomination. It should be understood that there are very limited funds available at this time. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts, on the principle of equitable geographical representation and on the needs of beneficiaries. Any changes in nominations will be considered to be new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than **15 November 2019** and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee: Curriculum vitae; mailing address; telephone numbers; email address; and name of contact person from the permanent mission in Geneva. Once the list of experts to receive funding has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, that is, by applying the least costly fare.

Background documents and contributed papers

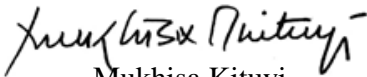
The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/EM.10/1. To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared a background document titled "Promoting value addition and the enhancement of domestic productive capacity through local economic empowerment" (TD/B/C.I/EM.10/2). Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers related to the subject under discussion by Friday, 29 November 2019. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

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

Enquiries concerning substantive issues should be addressed to ralf.peters@unctad.org, miho.shirotori@unctad.org or yanchun.zhang@unctad.org.


Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

22 October 2019