



DTL/TLB/MISC/2020/1
(20/33gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation
Eighth session
Climate change adaptation for seaports in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Geneva, 20–22 April 2020

The eighth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be held from 20 to 22 April 2020 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, 20 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The eighth session will focus on climate change adaptation for seaports in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With over 80 per cent of the volume of world trade carried by sea, international shipping and ports provide crucial linkages in global supply chains and are essential for all countries, including landlocked countries, to be able to access global markets. Ports are likely to be affected directly and indirectly by climate change-related effects with broader implications for international trade and for the development prospects of the most vulnerable nations, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States. Given the strategic role of ports as part of the global trading system, and the potential for climate-related damage, disruption and delay across global supply chains – with significant associated costs and economic and trade-related losses – enhancing their climate resilience is a matter of strategic economic importance.

There are considerable challenges ahead, yet there is also significant momentum, with growing international recognition of the need for the acceleration of ambition on adaptation and resilience-building. The eighth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation provides a timely opportunity to build on current momentum by considering how best to translate ambitious targets into action and to develop concrete policy recommendations that both help to advance the important issue of climate change adaptation for seaports in support of the 2030 Agenda and can serve as inputs for other intergovernmental meetings and processes that will take place in 2020.

Nomination and participation

Online registration is mandatory. To register, please use 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; emails: meetings@unctad.org and policy.legislation@unctad.org.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in the relevant fields by **31 March 2020**. 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 that wish to participate in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category that wish 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 **2 March 2020** 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.7/22. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background note titled "Climate change adaptation for seaports in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/23. Further information about related work by the secretariat is available at <https://unctad.org/ttl/legal>.

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 form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted by **2 April 2020** 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 coordinators in the substantive division, Ms. Regina Asariotis and Ms. Anila Premti; tel: 41 22 917 2043; fax: 41 22 917 0050; email: policy.legislation@unctad.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

29 January 2020