



DITC/TNCD/MISC/2020/2
(20/44gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development Eighth session Geneva, 5–6 May 2020

The eighth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will be held from 5 to 6 May 2020 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations. It will open at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 May 2020.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The services sector has been increasing in importance across countries, as measured by its share in output, employment and trade. Services are a valuable source of economic activity in themselves, as well as offering inputs to outputs in both the agriculture and manufacturing sectors through value added processes. Furthermore, some services activities are internationally tradable. Thus, the services sector offers a viable option for developing countries, notably commodity-dependent developing countries and small island developing countries, to diversify their economy by adding value to existing products or creating new goods and services. A lack of economic diversity leads to increased vulnerability to external shocks, whether natural or human-induced, as well as inhibit the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The eighth session of the expert meeting will focus on leveraging services, including infrastructure services, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting will examine issues of concern and interest to developing countries, such as how to handle tertiarization of the economy while avoiding “premature deindustrialization” and what services contribute more towards economic diversification. There will be a strong emphasis on exchanges of national and regional experiences to explore actions that participants can take home.

Participation

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia, research institutions and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Online registration, for attendance and inclusion in the list of participants, is mandatory and should be completed through the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development](#). Early registration is advisable so that timely approval may be given for the issuance of a badge required for access to 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.

Further inquiries regarding registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and tncdb@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, UNCTAD will finance 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. It should be understood that there are very limited funds available at this time. The decision as to which experts should receive funding will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the experts, on the principles of equitable geographical and gender-based representation, and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular the 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 31 March 2020** and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: (a) curriculum vitae; (b) postal and email addresses; (c) telephone and fax numbers; and (d) 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.4/22. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document, which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/23. Documents will be made available on the UNCTAD website.

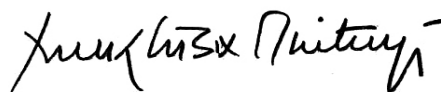
Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (5–12 pages) related to the issues contained in the provisional agenda. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be sent in advance to the contact provided below.

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 other enquiries should be addressed to the Division on International Trade and Commodities: tel.: 41 22 917 5691; and email: tncdb@unctad.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD
25 February 2020