



Round table: THE ECONOMICS OF GUM ARABIC IN AFRICA

27 April 2018, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Palais des Nations, Room XXVI, Geneva, Switzerland

Programme

Gum arabic is a resinous material obtained from the stems and branches of certain types of acacia trees. It is a strategic commodity with numerous industrial applications, including in confectionery, beverages, other food industries, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and printing.

Gum arabic is a promising commodity for producing countries in Africa due to its potential to generate foreign exchange, promote sustainable agriculture and forestry, ensure food security and combat desertification and climate change. It has the potential of playing a critical role in producer countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report "Commodities at a glance: Special issue on gum arabic"*, produced by the Commodities Branch of the UNCTAD secretariat, explores the economic, social and environmental relevance of the gum arabic sector, with a focus on the major challenges and opportunities of producing countries in Africa.

The panel discussion will include participants from key producing and importing countries, including representatives from UNCTAD Member States, the private sector and civil society.

Round table:

THE ECONOMICS OF GUM ARABIC IN AFRICA

10:00–10:15 Opening session

Opening statements: Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Chief, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Commodities Branch, DITC, UNCTAD

Chair: H.E. Mr. Kamal Gubara, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

10:15–10:35 Report presentation: «Commodities at a Glance: Special Issue on Gum Arabic»

Presenter: Mr. Mario Jales, Economic Affairs Officer, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Commodities Branch, DITC, UNCTAD

10:35–11:25 Panel discussion

Panellists: Mr. Ali Annadif, Vice-Président, Conseil National du Patronat Tchadien

Mr. Mohamed Sidibé, Coordonnateur National, Unité de mise en œuvre du Cadre Intégré Renforcé au Mali

Mr. Tunde Mustapha, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Dr. Abdelmaged Abdelgader, Secretary-General, Gum Arabic Board of the Sudan

Mr. Thorsten Hauser, Treasurer, Association for International Promotion of Gums

11:25–11:40 Reactions of panellists

11:40–12:50 Interactive discussions

12:50–13:00 Summary and closing remarks

For more information, please contact the Commodities Branch:

Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Chief, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Commodities Branch, DITC, UNCTAD, janvier.nkurunziza@unctad.org

Mr. Mario Jales, Economic Affairs Officer, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Commodities Branch, DITC, UNCTAD, mario.jales@unctad.org, +41 22 917 5766

Commodities Branch Secretariat:

Ms. Danièle Boglio, daniele.boglio@unctad.org, + 41 22 917 6286

Ms. Catherine Katongola, catherine.katongola@unctad.org, + 41 22 917 1648

REGISTRATION

<https://reg.unog.ch/event/23027/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: commodities@unctad.org Twitter: @unctad Website: unctad.org/commodities