



South–South sharing of policy experiences

14 and 15 March 2022

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Concept note and tentative programme

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that a meeting on the theme “South–South sharing of policy experiences”, will take place on 14 and 15 March from 10–11.30 a.m. and 2–3.30 p.m. (CET) each day. The event will also be held online. Please register for in-person or remote participation at [South–South sharing of policy experiences](#).

Background

It is widely recognized that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is inextricably linked with the process of structural transformation. The UNCTAD project titled “South–South integration and the Sustainable Development Goals: Enhancing structural transformation in key partner countries of the Belt and Road initiative” identifies key policy areas in which limitations exist in government capacity in many countries to effectively design, manage, coordinate, implement and evaluate strategic economic interventions that are the policy levers of structural transformation. To address this gap, this project aims to share successful experiences from developing countries, with a view to assisting national capacity-building.

Purpose

The meeting will bring together policymakers and experts from developing countries to discuss and share policy experiences in different areas, including macroeconomics, industry and trade; digital economy; and debt sustainability. Lessons that can be learned by developing countries from the successful structural transformation in China will be discussed. Participants will also benefit from the sharing of successful macrofinance policies in response to the pandemic and policies that help digital start-ups become “unicorns”. This meeting will serve to launch a study prepared under the project on structural transformation in China and lessons for developing countries.

Key objectives and expected outcomes

- Launch UNCTAD study on structural transformation in China and lessons for developing countries
- Discuss and share key policies in response to the pandemic in developing countries, particularly China, Ethiopia, Malaysia and South Africa
- Discuss policy briefs prepared by international experts on the challenges in and policies needed for structural transformation in developing countries
- Discuss policies for promoting digital start-ups in developing countries



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Tentative programme

14 March 2022

10–11.30 a.m.

Launch of UNCTAD study on structural transformation in China and lessons for developing countries

- Welcoming address by moderator: Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS), UNCTAD
- Opening remarks: Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
- Keynote address: Chen Xu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of China, Geneva
- Presentation of the study: Dawei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD

Panel discussion (10 minutes per speaker)

- Tauhid Ahmed, Executive Director, Institute for Development of Economics and Finance, Indonesia
- Chanuka Wattegama, Head of Policy, Information and Communications Technology Agency, Sri Lanka
- Firew Woldeyes, Lead Researcher, Policy Studies Institute, Ethiopia

Question-and-answer session

Concluding remarks: Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, DGDS, UNCTAD

2–3.30 p.m.

Key policies in response to the pandemic in developing countries: Case studies of China, Ethiopia, Malaysia and South Africa

- Welcoming address by moderator: Piergiuseppe Fortunato, Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD
- Keynote address: Mxolisi Nkosi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of South Africa, Geneva

Panel discussion (10 minutes per speaker)

- Saul Levin, Executive Director, Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies, South Africa
- Yin Shao Loong, Senior Research Associate, Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia
- Zhang Liping, Deputy Director General, Financial Research Institute, Development Research Centre, China
- Mulu Gebreeyesus, Research Fellow, Policy Studies Institute, Ethiopia

Question-and-answer session

Concluding remarks: Piergiuseppe Fortunato, Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD

15 March 2022

10–11.30 a.m.

Challenges in and policies needed for structural transformation in developing countries

- Welcoming address by moderator: Jörg Mayer, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD
- Keynote address: CA Chandraprema, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka, Geneva

Panel discussion (10 minutes per speaker)

- Mateus Abelardo Américo Matusse, National Director, Private Sector Development Support, Mozambique
- Dhamikka Nanayakkara, Deputy Governor, Central Bank, Sri Lanka
- Safdar Sohail, Dean, National Institute of Public Policy; Member, Prime Minister's Task Force on Information Technology, Pakistan
- Zhang Jianping, Director, Centre for Regional Economic Cooperation, Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, China

Question-and-answer session

Concluding remarks: Jörg Mayer, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD

2–3.30 p.m.

Policies for promoting digital start-ups in developing countries

- Welcoming address by moderator: Rashmi Banga, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD
- Keynote address: Febrian Ruddyard, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Indonesia, Geneva

Panel discussion (10 minutes per speaker)

- Sachindra Samararatne, Director, Start-up Ecosystem Development, Information and Communications Technology Agency, Sri Lanka
- Safdar Sohail, Dean, National Institute of Public Policy; Member, Prime Minister's Task Force on Information Technology, Pakistan
- Tsegay Gebrekidan Tekleselassie, Lead Researcher, Policy Studies Institute, Ethiopia
- Esther Sri Astuti Agustin, Programme Director, Institute for Development of Economics and Finance, Indonesia
- Wang Chaoxian, Deputy Director, Policy and Economic Research Institute, Academy of Information and Communications Technology, China

Question-and-answer session

Concluding remarks: Rashmi Banga, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD