



DTL/KDB/MISC/2022/5  
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## NOTIFICATION

### **E-course: Building resilience and responding to shocks**

**For member States of the United Nations and delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization**

**11 April–2 May 2022**

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that an e-learning course on building resilience and responding to shocks will be available online from 11 April to 2 May 2022.

The aim of the e-learning course, which also includes a webinar, is as follows: to support capital-based government officials/policymakers in building resilience and preparing for external shocks, whether they originate in the economic, social, environmental or health spheres. The online course, with a three-week time frame, pays special attention to the shock generated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and discusses the responses to it given so far by countries and the international community.

Furthermore, the online course addresses the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and their policy implications, including the institutional approach and the ability of countries to respond to multiple shocks, not only in mitigating but in creating and enhancing the capacity for a strengthened response and resilience.

Working towards greater coordination and collaboration within and among local, regional and public institutions and understanding resilience, nominations of public officials from various ministries and related institutions (national and regional) are welcome. The nominees could be working in various areas, including, but not limited to, economic development, planning, sustainable development, education, environment, finance, investment and governance, among other areas. Nominations should come from the five developing regions, as established by paragraph 166/UNCTAD multi-venues, for regional courses: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa. The UNCTAD secretariat invites relevant institutions from member States and permanent missions to nominate candidates who meet the following requirements:

(a) Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, trade law or public administration or in a related area; a first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted.

(b) Have at least 4 years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a research institute, dealing with economic, development, and social matters in general and involved in the formulation and implementation of national and regional policies.

(c) Have a full working knowledge of English, the language in which the e-learning course will be delivered, to attend this e-learning course.

UNCTAD member States are invited to present, by 7 April 2022, the names (first name and last name) and email addresses of qualified candidates (policymakers in developing countries) to the secretariat through their permanent missions in Geneva.

Queries concerning the courses should be addressed to Ms. Randa Jamal, Chief, Policy Capacity-building Section/P166, Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD: tel: 41 22 917 2718; email: [randajamal@un.org](mailto:randajamal@un.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebeca Grynspan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebeca Grynspan  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD  
31 March 2022



## COURSE DETAILS

### 1. KEY CHARACTERISTICS

<b>Dates</b>	11 April–2 May 2022
<b>Activities</b>	3 weeks self-paced online course 1 webinar (90 minutes), date will be provided following the completion of the e-course
<b>Number of hours</b>	15 hours
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>P166 course page</b>	<a href="https://p166.unctad.org/">https://p166.unctad.org/</a>
<b>Completion criteria</b>	Quizzes (on modules 1–3), scoring at least 80%, and feedback form
<b>Certificate</b>	Yes
<b>Price</b>	Free of charge

More details can be found below.

### 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the UNCTAD Building Resilience and Responding to Shocks online course is to furnish officials/policymakers with the tools required to understand key challenges of development policies to achieve both, economic and human development, as well as economic growth.

After completing the online course and webinar for discussion, including questions and answers, the participants will have deepened their understanding of resilience, response to multiple external shocks and how to enhance future policies, inclusive policies, taking an institutional approach.

The objectives of the online course are as follows:

- Enhance participants' understanding of the causes of vulnerability and of the requirements of economic resilience with a view to enacting coherent policies aimed at diversifying economies and expanding and upgrading productive capacities.
- Lay emphasis on resilience from the lens of developing economies, in terms of policies that respond to multiple shocks and the ability to rebuild better towards achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Highlight the importance of policy space as a major factor that configures into effective policymaking and buttressing resilience.

### 3. TARGET AUDIENCE

This e-learning course is aimed primarily at capital-based government officials/policymakers dealing with economic, development and social issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies.

To be considered for nomination, candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, trade law or public administration, or in a related area; a first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted;
- Have at least 4 years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a research institute, dealing with economic, development and social matters in general and involved in the formulation and implementation of national and regional policies;
- Have a full working knowledge of English, the language in which the e-learning course will be delivered.

### 4. COURSE STRUCTURE & DESCRIPTION

This self-paced online course is structured in three modules composed of content and activities (interactive lectures, reading material, videos, knowledge checks and quizzes). The estimated time needed to complete the online course activities is about 15 hours. The online course has to be completed within three weeks.

This online course analyses resilience in-depth and how countries can best prepare for external shocks, whether they originate in the economic, social, environmental or health sphere. It pays special attention to the shock generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and discusses the responses to it given so far by countries and the international community. In addition, this online course addresses the interdependence between national, regional, and international economic realities and their policy implications, including institutional approach and the ability of countries to respond to multiple shocks, not only in mitigating but in creating and enhancing the capacity for a strengthened response and resilience.

Furthermore, this online course examines the causes of external vulnerability of countries and how they relate to their level of development of productive capacities and to the stage of structural transformation of their economies. This explains why all countries have been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic but have had a completely differentiated capacity to respond to it. This is clearly shown by the contrasting responses given by different groups of countries, ranging from least developed countries to developed countries.

It takes a forward-looking approach aiming at bolstering countries' resilience to future shocks. It therefore sheds light on the economic policies required to reach this objective. It takes into consideration economic, social, environment and health aspects, as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, and post the pandemic, the pursuit of national and international development policies, including productive capacities, and strategies should continue to be placed within the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. This will provide the overall framework for resilience in the context of sustainable development policies in the 2015–2030 period.

The course is based on UNCTAD research on the links between productive capacities, structural transformation, diversification, technological capabilities and on the policies, countries can enact in order to develop them. It sheds light on measuring micro and macro indicators for macroeconomic policies and management, international trade, and finance, as well as new views regarding the nature and role of the developmental state in the light of the global financial, economic crisis, and the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After completing the online course, participants will be invited to a 90-minute webinar (exact date and time to be confirmed). The objective of this activity is to discuss national and regional experiences of country and region-specific responses to the pandemic, to address economic challenges and mitigating the impact, and to put forth any questions following the completion of the online course.

After completing the online course and the webinar for discussion, participants will have deepened their understanding on resilience, response to multiple external shocks and how to enhance future policies, inclusive policies, taking on institutional approach. They should also be able to understand key challenges of development policies to achieve both economic and human development, as well as economic growth.

### **MODULE 1: Vulnerability and resilience: concepts and their implications for policies and strategies for sustainable development**

Module 1 introduces the course, its methods, and objectives. It provides a broad overview of the concepts of vulnerability and resilience. It discusses the causes of vulnerability and its consequences, especially in terms of possible jeopardizing of countries' pursuit of sustainable development. The session examines the measurement of vulnerability and how it shows a sharp contrast among the degree of exposure of different country groups to external shocks. It then tackles the concept of resilience. Based on this, the session analyses the relationship between vulnerability and resilience, on one side, and the pursuit

of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the other side. It shows that resilience is associated to the capacity to withstand and adapt to unforeseen shocks and how progress towards sustainable development also increases resilience, and vice-versa. It gives an overview of the different types of policy which governments can implement in order to build countries' resilience and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **MODULE 2 Vulnerability and resilience in the response to the COVID-19 shock**

Focusing on the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, module 2 discusses the mechanics of the COVID-19 shock, its channels of transmission and impacts through the interaction of the different dimensions: economic, social, health, political and environmental. It shows how a common shock has had sharply divergent impacts on different groups of countries, due to their contrasting institutional capacity and policy space to deal with the pandemic. In many developing countries, the shock has resulted in a backtracking of several years of development progress achieved previously. It highlights how the shock has further sharpened adverse features of pre-existing globalization and further exposed preceding shortcomings of the international trade and financial architecture. The consequences of these features on the sharply contrasting outlook for recovery in the middle term are then examined. The session concludes by discussing how the institutional preparedness shown by different countries in dealing with the pandemic is also significant in relation to their capacity to deal with other types of shocks, whether economic, environmental or otherwise.

## **MODULE 3 From COVID-19 to prosperity for all through resilience**

Module 3 discusses how the domestic and international policies which need to be put in place to bolster resilience to future shocks of individual countries and, more broadly, of the world economy. Domestically, it examines the lines of financial, STI (science, technology and innovation), trade and industrial policies which together will lead to expanding and upgrading productive capacities in developing countries, their diversification and to the structural transformation of their economy. It discusses the role that a development state must carry out and the policy space it needs for the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. While these tasks pre-existed the pandemic, they have become even more urgent and challenging in the present context. It is now a matter of recovering lost ground and establishing more solid bases for sustainably and more inclusive development. Internationally, the session will discuss the proposals for reform of the international financial and trade system which are most likely to be conducive to building both country and systemic resilience.

## **Nominations**

Nominations should contain the names and email addresses of the candidates and should be submitted by 7 April 2022 to UNCTAD through the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva or the World Trade Organization. Nominated candidates will receive an email with detailed instructions on how to create their account and access the online course. It is therefore advisable that names and email addresses be communicated to the UNCTAD secretariat at the latest 7 April 2022.

Nominations should be addressed to:

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Switzerland  
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