



DTL/KDB/MISC/2022/3
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NOTIFICATION

Short courses on key international economic and development issues for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization

Second semester 2022

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that another series of short courses on key international economic and development issues for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization will be held in the second semester of 2022.

The aim of the courses is to give delegates from permanent missions an opportunity to become better acquainted with topical issues and developments in the international economic agenda as they are reflected in the work of UNCTAD. Course descriptions are provided below.

Three courses will be held at the Palais des Nations on Thursday, 15 September; Thursday, 10 November; and Tuesday, 13 December.

The courses will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (10 a.m. to 12 p.m. if the course is held with remote participation and/or in a hybrid format) and will be delivered in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, French and Spanish. Courses will begin promptly at 10 a.m. to allow sufficient time for debate after the presentations.

The secretariat invites permanent missions to nominate delegates who follow matters pertaining to UNCTAD and/or the World Trade Organization to attend these courses. Course applications may be completed online at [short courses, second semester](#).

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebeca Grynspan".

Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

4 July 2022

**Short courses on key international economic and development issues
for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and the World Trade Organization
Second semester 2022**

Course descriptions

Trade facilitation and non-tariff measures:

How to ensure access to essential goods such as food and medical products

15 September 2022, Room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities
and the Division on Technology and Logistics

Recent and current shocks such as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, as well as related disruptions in global value chains and the food security crisis, demonstrate the importance of and linkages between trade and safety and health. Efficient and transparent trade is a necessary condition for the availability of essential goods such as food and medical products in all countries at reasonable prices. The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Underscore the importance of trade facilitation and innovative approaches, to reduce bureaucratic procedures at borders and support efficient trade procedures
- Provide an overview of the digital tools of UNCTAD in the field of trade facilitation, such as the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and trade information portals
- Provide an understanding of non-tariff measures, to ensure the transparency and effectiveness of trade-related regulations that affect all trade procedures
- Present transparency initiatives to ease access to information on trade procedures and regulations, to facilitate trade for small and medium-sized enterprises and support regional integration
- Highlight the example of the cutting-edge approach in Africa, under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, to address non-tariff barriers and how regional trade can be strengthened

Commodity dependence and impacts of recent events on commodity markets

10 November 2022, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

Commodity dependence is associated with a range of risks and vulnerabilities that threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Shocks to the global economy due to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine caused volatility and disruptions in international commodity markets and are a reminder of the importance of building resilient economies. Price volatility, sudden price hikes and supply chain uncertainties with regard to basic commodities such as food, fuels and fertilizers also pose major challenges for net importers of these commodities, particularly if imports are concentrated in a narrow range of supplying markets and account for a large share of domestic availability. Furthermore, the global energy transition required to address climate change will have profound impacts on future commodity demand patterns and thereby on the growth and development prospects of commodity-dependent economies. The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Provide an overview of the impacts of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine on global commodity markets
- Show the risks and challenges associated with commodity dependence in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Highlight the importance of economic diversification and value upgrading for commodity-dependent developing countries

Trade facilitation and development through greater digitalization and enhanced connectivity

13 December 2022, Room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics

Trade facilitation includes the simplification, modernization and harmonization of export and import processes. The aim is to ease the movement of goods across national borders and to maximize efficiency, while reducing related costs and delays. This requires the standardization of documents and data, automation, data exchanges, efficient risk management and paperless procedures. These can be achieved through the digitalization of trade information and exchanges of data among key actors involved in the coordination of action and control. During the pandemic, the need for digitalization and connectivity – as detailed in the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, as amended (revised Kyoto Convention), under the World Customs Organization, and the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization – became more pressing for developing countries. This course will discuss the reasons for digitalization and connectivity among partner government agencies, particularly since the pandemic, and present solutions developed by the ASYCUDA programme to increase efficiency; reduce costs and delays; and be better prepared to respond to future shocks, such as the pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis. The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Illustrate the benefits of efficient control of exports and imports
- Provide a framework for how systems, tools and solutions developed by the ASYCUDA programme, in cooperation with other international organizations, can potentially address digitalization and enhanced connectivity needs
- Highlight the impact of ASYCUDA programme interventions for economies