



DITC/ MISC/2023/5
(23/73gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development Tenth session Geneva, 10–12 July 2023

The tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, focused on “The role of trade and services for enhancing science, technology and innovation to promote a fair transition to sustainable energy”, will be held from 10 to 12 July 2023. The session will open at 11 a.m. on Monday, 10 July, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, with physical and remote participation.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Member States at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development stated in the Bridgetown Covenant that UNCTAD should “support and promote activities and initiatives in developing countries through the improvement in trade in services.” (TD/541/Add.2, para. 127 (ff)). Sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development address the role of trade in services in economic diversification in support of implementation of the Bridgetown Covenant.

At its seventy-third executive session, the Trade and Development Board decided on 15 February 2023, that the substantive topic of the tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development would be “The role of trade and services for enhancing science, technology and innovation to promote a fair transition to sustainable energy”.

The tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will address the importance of international trade in services to allow broader sourcing of quality, reliable and affordable services that are relevant inputs to the energy sector’s transition to sustainable energy. It will provide an opportunity, through a series of panel discussions, for experts to exchange views and examine the role of regional and international cooperation in leveraging trade in services in support of sustainable energy and economic diversification. Findings from the discussions will contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned activities and initiatives of the Bridgetown Covenant. The report of the meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission.

A follow-up meeting of an informal working group on data for services trade and development policies formed in 2022 will be convened on the margins of the tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development. The objective is to discuss data needs and gaps, and potential support for developing countries to address these issues.

Participation

Member States are invited to nominate experts from the public and/or private sectors. Nominated experts are encouraged to participate in all of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development to ensure continuity. Each State is encouraged to nominate up to five experts to participate.

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 is required for attendance and inclusion in the list of participants 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. 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 UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance through the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries. Governments requiring funding are invited to specifically request financing in their letters of nomination. The decision as to which of the nominated experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the experts, on the principle of equitable geographical and gender representation and on the needs of beneficiaries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received by **30 May 2023** and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; postal and email addresses; telephone and fax numbers; and 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 written contributions

The annotated provisional agenda (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/28) and a background note by UNCTAD secretariat, entitled “The role of trade and services for enhancing science, technology and innovation to promote a fair transition to sustainable energy” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/29), will be made available on the UNCTAD website.

Experts are encouraged to submit brief papers (maximum of 12 pages) on the topics of the meeting, including examples of good practices of policy coherence and international cooperation. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Questions (available on the link above) may help to guide the preparation of case studies.

Papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat by **20 June 2023** to the following email: TSCE@un.org.

Logistics

This meeting will be held with physical participation, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, and remote participation. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations. Information on how to connect remotely to this meeting will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the meeting.

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. 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; 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 UNCTAD Division on International Trade and Commodities: tel.: 41 22 917 5691; and email: TSCE@un.org.



Rebeca Grynszan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

15 May 2023