



DTL/KDB/MISC/2023/5
(23/95)

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 2023

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 2023.

The aim of the courses is to give delegates from permanent missions an opportunity to become better acquainted with topical issues and developments on 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 Tuesday, 12 September; Tuesday, 26 September; and Friday, 24 November.

The courses will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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. Participation in person is strongly encouraged.

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, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD; tel: 41 22 917 2718; email: randa.jamal@un.org.

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

Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

15 June 2023

**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 2023
Course descriptions**

Shaping the future of supply chains in Africa: Optimizing opportunities and strategic value

12 September 2023, Room XXVI

Delivered by the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

The global supply chain disruptions caused by recent global shocks, such as the pandemic, geopolitical tensions and the impacts of climate change, as well as the resulting global market slowdown, have intensified the need to promote more resilient supply chain operations across various regions and thereby mitigate the risks of supply shortages and other repercussions from shocks and vulnerabilities on supply chain efficiency. The risks of concentrating manufacturing and supply chains in a few markets or sourcing sector-specific intermediate goods from a few locations can enhance exposure to shocks and disruptions in production networks and supply chains. As a result, industries participating in global supply chains increasingly seek to diversify supply (number of suppliers) and customer (number of customers) bases, improve supply chains with more technology-enabled processes and businesses and optimize supply chain financing solutions in order to reduce dependence on global suppliers, sources, distribution and other supply chain components.

The course aims to inform policymakers of such current global trends and how the increasing need for global firms to diversify supply chains in order to improve resilience can provide countries in Africa with a unique opportunity to ensure a more impactful integration into the global economy. The course will also address opportunities for companies to diversify and relocate parts of supply chains, especially in high-knowledge and technology-intensive sectors, such as automotives, electronics and medical devices, by considering or targeting Africa as a new source market for inputs (e.g. critical minerals and intermediate products), while reducing the costs of transportation and logistics and minimizing risks related to supplier delivery delays and other challenges. Growing consumer markets in Africa, with increasing demand for electronic goods and financial technology services, can provide incentives for market proximity and diversification towards the region. New technologies and manufacturing trends are critical in allowing for viable local production, attractive domestic markets for foreign companies (including relocation of production to the region) and innovative supply chain practices. The course will be based on key findings and strategies from *Economic Development in Africa Report 2023*, including on how economies and businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises) in Africa can best position themselves to become key players in global supply chains.

Challenges and opportunities related to green innovation and sustainability

26 September 2023, Room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics

The course will analyse the opportunities and challenges related to green innovation with regard to sustainable development, with reference to *Technology and Innovation Report 2023: Opening Green Windows – Technological Opportunities for a Low-Carbon World*. The course will address the conceptual framework of a green technological and economic paradigm, as well as empirical work on catch-up trajectories, to inform possible pathways for countries in order to seize green windows of opportunity. In addition, an overview of the status of green technologies will be provided, in terms of technical performance, market penetration, employment and investment, and in-depth analysis will be provided of the following three issues: developing and using renewable energy technologies; greening global value chains by switching to digital technologies; and diversifying towards production sectors that are more complex and more green. Policy recommendations supported by case studies will be presented, and the role of international cooperation in supporting countries in harnessing the full potential of green technologies will be discussed.

Delegates will learn about the opportunities and challenges that countries have faced or may face in promoting green technologies and innovation, to contribute to national development priorities and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates will be able to identify strategies for countries in order to take advantage of the green technology revolution, to build a greener, smarter, more resilient, inclusive and sustainable society, as well as areas in which the international community could support countries in leveraging green technologies for a low-carbon world.

Unlocking the potential of the creative economy, for resilience and sustainable development

24 November 2023, Room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

The creative economy is a rapidly growing sector that has the potential to create jobs, increase incomes and export revenues, foster innovation and entrepreneurship and contribute to the overall well-being of society. The course will provide a comprehensive overview of the creative economy and explore its linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and its role in post-pandemic recovery. Delegates will obtain a thorough understanding of what constitutes the creative economy and the measurement of the creative economy and its contribution to sustainable development, as well as how policy and institutional frameworks can support the growth of the creative economy.

The course will cover the mandate and work of UNCTAD on the creative economy and trends in the trade of creative goods and services, as well as the challenges and opportunities amid the increasing digitalization of the sector. Delegates will gain a comprehensive understanding of the creative economy, including potential to contribute to sustainable development and policies that promote the development of the creative economy.