



DITC/MISC/2024/7
(24/61gd)

NOTIFICATION

Trade and Development Commission Fourteenth session

Geneva, 22 to 26 April 2024

The UNCTAD secretariat has the honour to invite member States to the fourteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission, from 22 to 26 April 2024. The session will open on Monday, 22 April, at 10 a.m. The provisional agenda for the session, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, is contained in document TD/B/C.I/56.

Background documents and agenda

The Commission, as a subsidiary body of the Trade and Development Board defined in paragraph 121 of the Bridgetown Covenant, will provide an opportunity for member States to consider the reports of the following meetings:

- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation
- Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
- Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

The topic of the substantive agenda item is trade and development implications of key aspects of the energy transition, with two subtopics: critical minerals, and sustainable fuel for maritime transport. The Commission will conduct policy dialogue on the selected topics.

The Commission will discuss the trade and development challenges and opportunities associated with the growing importance of critical energy transition minerals in the energy transition. It will discuss policy options to shape a future where critical energy transition minerals not only power global clean energy aspirations, but also contribute to domestic value addition, responsible resource management and sustainable, inclusive economic growth for developing countries. In this context, the Commission will provide an opportunity to member States to deliberate, from the trade and development perspective, on what constitutes common and voluntary principles of fair, just and sustainable management of critical energy transition minerals. Member States could consider the following questions in preparing for the deliberations at the Commission: (a) If your country has a national critical energy transition minerals strategy or policy, what are its main objectives and modalities? How does it stand vis-à-vis your country's sustainable development strategy? (b) Does your country's critical energy transition minerals strategy call for trade-related measures? Which trade-related measures are used to achieve which objectives? (c) What are the parameters for achieving sustainable, fair, and just management of critical energy transition minerals from your country's perspective? (d) What is your country's concern about other countries' critical energy transition minerals strategies? (e) How can we make the multilateral trading system and sustainable standards contribute to development through critical energy transition minerals?

The Commission will discuss the potential role of sustainable fuels and facilitating the energy transition of maritime transport and the trade and development implications of an energy transition that rely heavily on such fuels in maritime transport. The Commission will also be presented with an update of the activities and recent achievements in trade facilitation and the latest development of the single window of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme.

During the session, the secretariat will report on progress made in promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of work of UNCTAD (research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance) in the areas covered by the Trade and Development Commission.

Participation and registration

The Commission is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations (general and special category) are also eligible to participate as observers.

All those wishing to attend the session are requested to register online. To do so, please use the following link: [Trade and Development Commission, fourteenth session](#).

Any enquiries concerning registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0214; e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room XVII of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the meeting in person will be able to listen to the live audio stream in the six official languages of the United Nations. The link to listen live will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges from the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. As part of the new system at the United Nations Office at Geneva, participants will receive a digital badge consisting of their photo, a quick response (QR) code and the name and date of the meeting. The digital badge will be sent to each participant by email once they have been accredited by the meeting organizer and should be downloaded to a mobile telephone or other mobile device. Participants may also print the digital badge in order to use the QR code. 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. in order 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 with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations. Visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

For substantive enquiries, please contact, on issues related to trade, Mr. Rémi Lang (tel.: 41 22 917 4431; email: remi.lang@un.org) and, on issues related to transport, trade logistics and capacity-building, Mr. Alexander Riveros (tel.: 41 22 917 4187; alexander.riveros@un.org).



Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

21 March 2024