



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
Seventh session

28 November 2024
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

UNCTAD/GDS/MISC/2024/4
(gd/24/203)

The seventh session of the 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, will be held on Thursday, 28 November 2024 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The session will start at 10 a.m.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Successful development is based on an open trade regime that expands limited domestic aggregate demand and incentivizes and enables industrial investment that, in turn, generates growth and development, understood as increased productive capacity, by means of backward and forward linkages in the domestic economy, as well as increased productivity and quality. The current geopolitical context, in which major globalization and fragmentation trends are likely to co-evolve, necessitates discussions of development strategies that optimize policy space across various areas, including international trade; investment, particularly with regard to green and sustainable industries; crisis response; and the promotion of economic resilience. The persistent difficulty in developing countries is in the identification of trade and investment policies that build productive capacities, promote value addition and foster economic diversification and resilience amid compound crises. Thus, addressing the issue of policy space is crucial, as the primary macroeconomic policy challenge in developing countries is in improving the sectoral composition of their economies in order to support resilience and sustainability in the face of multiple external constraints and the growing costs of climate change. At present, there are also opportunities for the economies of the global South, including with regard to rapidly increasing South–South trade, enabling growth; and in bargaining for favourable trade, aid and financing conditions. Governance issues and international policy coordination are increasingly important in three key areas. First, there is an increasing need to ensure greater coordination and coherence among various policies, including those related to competition and consumer protection, trade, industrial strategy, data protection, digitalization, labour and taxation. Second, artificial intelligence needs to be globally governed through agreed principles and standards. Third, many countries have access to self-help policies in the search for long-term development finance and domestic revenue mobilization, yet such policies should be nested in a greater global trade and investment regime, to avoid trade conflicts and deflation. Services-export-led growth as a path to development can only remain feasible if new policy barriers are not enacted and if access to markets and technologies is safeguarded.

The seventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting will be held on the topic, “Optimizing policy space for development strategies: Productive capacities, value addition and economic diversification”. The objective of the session is to discuss which trade and investment policies can help developing countries build productive capacities, as well as promote value addition, economic diversification and resilience in a time of compound crises.

Nominations and registration

This session 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 and the private sector, may participate as observers. Experts will participate in the session in their personal capacities and are expected to have proven expertise in the subject matter. They may be selected from governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia. Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in the relevant fields by **1 November 2024**. Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the session and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Please register for this session at <https://indico.un.org/event/1009986/>. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this session. 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 the Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and/or ivonne.paredes@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries. Governments requiring funding are invited to explicitly request financing in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that there are limited funds available. 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 no later than **1 November 2024** 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 contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the session, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/19. Session documentation will be made available on the [webpage](#). Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the session, related to their studies, findings and/or national experiences. The papers will be made available at the session in the form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted by **15 November 2024** to the contact provided below.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the session 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 scan their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva. 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 detail

Substantive inquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Pierre Kohler; email: pierre.kohler@unctad.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebeca Grynspan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebeca" and the last name "Grynspan" clearly distinguishable.

Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development
23 October 2024