



DITC/COM/MISC/2021/1
(21/10GD)

NOTIFICATION

Virtual meeting

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Twelfth session, 8 and 9 February 2021

The twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held virtually on 8 and 9 February 2021, from 2 to 4 p.m. each day.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The topics for this session were approved by the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-fifth session, part II, on 4 October 2018. The meeting was initially scheduled to take place on 1 and 2 April 2020 but was postponed by the Board as a result of the pandemic. This has allowed the UNCTAD secretariat to revise the background note titled “Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets”. The revised note has been prepared to highlight key commodity market trends and to analyse factors, including the significant effect of the pandemic, that contributed to the trends in commodity prices observed in 2020.

The Nairobi Maafikiano (paragraph 30) states: “Greater transparency is needed in commodities markets, in both source and destination countries, and this should include implementing methods to strengthen transparency and capacity in tax administration systems. The rich resource endowment of the world’s poorest countries, combined with massive capital flight from many commodity-dependent developing countries, highlights the need for a comprehensive assessment of the exploitation and marketing of primary commodities in both source and destination countries.”

In this regard, the meeting will provide a forum for sharing national experiences in addressing the issue of transparency in commodity markets, in both source and destination countries. Stronger transparency along commodity value chains is expected to improve the governance of the commodity sector and foster accountability, as well as the sustainable and climate friendly management of commodity revenue as shown in the [Commodities-and-development-report-2019](#). The meeting will identify policies that commodity-dependent developing countries may pursue to maximize development benefits from commodity production and trade.

Participation

The meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Representatives of 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.

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Early registration is advisable, so that timely approval may be received. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. Online registration should be completed by using the following link <https://unctad.org/meeting/multi-year-expert-meeting-commodities-and-development-twelfth-session>. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission in Geneva will suffice. All inquiries regarding registration should be sent to the Intergovernmental

Support Service, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and/or commodities@unctad.org.

Experts will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities and are expected to have proven expertise in the subject matter. They may be selected from government ministries such as those dealing with trade, industry, agriculture, minerals and metals, oil and gas, and may also be selected from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives, and non-governmental organizations.

Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by 30 January 2021 at commodities@unctad.org.

Background documents

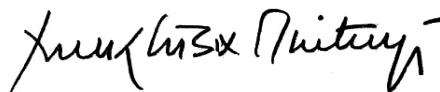
The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/48/Rev.1. In order to facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared two background notes titled "Greater transparency in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/49) and "Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/50/Rev.1).

Logistics

The session will be conducted through a remote simultaneous interpretation platform with the six official languages of the United Nations. A link to the formal virtual meeting will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Chief, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Commodities Branch, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 1648 or 41 22 917 6286; email: commodities@unctad.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

20 January 2021