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Date: Online, 3-7 October 2021

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

The fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD15](#)) will be held virtually from 3 to 7 October 2021, hosted by the Government of Barbados, under theme “From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all”. The opening ceremony will take place on 3 October at 5 p.m. Geneva time.

The ministerial conference, a quadrennial United Nations event, is the highest decision-making body of [UNCTAD](#) at which member states discuss current trade and development issues. The conference sets the organization’s work priorities for the four years and formulates global policy recommendations.

UNCTAD’s 195 member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and representatives of the private sector and the youth are expected to participate in the conference.

The United Nations Secretary-General will open the Conference with welcome addresses by the President of Kenya, the Prime Minister of Barbados and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

The Conference will see the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of State, Ministers of Trade and Economy, Heads of international organizations, Nobel prize winning economists, leading civil society organizations, development banks, financial and global trade organizations.

[Several sessions](#) on trade, investment, finance, technology, environment and other development-related topics will take place during the conference. Many pre-conference events such as forums, webinars and

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exhibitions are taking place in the lead-up to UNCTAD 15. Each event requires separate registration.

As the conference will take place virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be powered by a virtual conference centre that will recreate some elements of an in-person conference, such as a media centre, an exhibition, and interpretation in to the six official UN languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Production centres are put in place in the host country Barbados and Geneva and a number of satellite studios across the world.

WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT

Three dialogues will take place on 4 and 5 October that will cover global vulnerabilities, in particular health and climate change, the issue of inequality and whether the COVID-19 crisis is really a game-changer and the building of a more prosperous development path that requires broad and bold actions.

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLES

Five ministerial roundtables are scheduled for 6 and 7 October of which the first one will discuss the scaling up of financing for development, followed by the pandemic's aggravation of pressures on global and regional value chains, the regional integration for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable future, the harnessing of frontier technologies for shared prosperity and the need to support productive transformation for greater resilience in a post-pandemic world.

SCHEDULE OF PRESS CONFERENCES & BRIEFINGS

The press conferences and briefings will take place online, through a zoom link that will be provided to accredited press. The press conferences will be broadcast on UNTV.

Clips will be made available to the media, as well as b-roll material.

Possibilities for interviews exist and should be submitted to [e. unctadpress@unctad.org](mailto:unctadpress@unctad.org) .

4 October 2021 18:00–18:30 hrs. (CEST) / 12:00-12:30 hrs.(AST)	Press conference
5 October 2021 13:15-13:45 hrs.(CEST) / 07:15-07:45 hrs (AST)	Press briefing
5 October 2021 17:30-18:00 hrs. (CEST) 11:30 a.m.-12:00 hrs. (AST)	Press briefing
6 October 2021 13:15-13:45 hrs. (CEST) 07:15-07:45 hrs. (AST)	Press briefing
6 October 2021 19:30-20:00 hrs. (CEST) 13:30-14:00 hrs. (AST)	Press briefing
7 October 2021 17:30-18:00 hrs. (CEST) 11:30 a.m.-12:00 hrs. (AST)	Press conference

MEDIA CENTRE

Journalists will access to a newsroom on the UNCTAD 15 [virtual conference centre](#). It will be accessible from the media centre on the UNCTAD 15 website. Announcements of press conferences and other information will be made in the media centre and through emails to journalists registered in our virtual newsroom.

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MEDIA ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION

Accreditation to the conference is open to all, including the media. Journalists already accredited with UNOG can join. Others need to first create a profile on [Indico](#), and request at the same time for their media accreditation.

UN Geneva reserves the right to deny or withdraw the accreditation of journalists from media organizations whose activities run counter to the principles of the UN Charter, or who abuse the privileges extended or put the accreditation to improper use or act in a way not consistent with the principles of the organization.