



Draft Programme

National Policy-Level Workshop on fostering productive capacities in the Dominican Republic for economic diversification, resilience and inclusive growth

**Venue: Convention Center, Ministry of External Affairs,
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 04 February 2026**

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:25 Opening Session

09:00 – 09:05 Photo of the authorities

09:05-09:10 Welcome remarks by ONE,
Ms. Mildred Martínez, Director of the National Statistical Office

09:10-09:15 Remarks by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)
Ms. Julia Sánchez, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Dominican Republic

09:15-09:20 Introductory remarks by UNCTAD,
Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

09:20 - 09:25 Opening remarks by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Hugo Fco. Rivera Fernández, Vice Ministry for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation.

09:25-09:30 Group Photo.

09:30-09:45 Coffee break

09:45 – 11:00 Session I: Sustainable and inclusive development: alignment between the National Development Strategy and international frameworks, through evidence-based policies.

This session will examine the alignment between the Dominican Republic's National Development Strategy 2030 and international development frameworks, emphasizing the role of evidence-based policymaking in promoting sustainable and inclusive development. The session will discuss key structural challenges and highlight the use of analytical tools, including UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI), to inform policy design, implementation, and institutional coordination.

09:45 – 09:50 Moderator: *Mr. José Guillermo Sarita, Trade Negotiations Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

09:50 – 10:10 **National Development Strategy 2030 (Law 1-12): strategic objectives, development challenges and alignment with international development frameworks**

Mr. Omar Herrera, Sectoral Specialist, Directorate of Sectoral Development and Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economy

10:10– 10:30 **Evidence-based policymaking in the Dominican Republic: the role of official statistics and diagnostic tools in supporting sustainable and inclusive development**

Ms. Crismairy Marlenny Jiménez Mena, Director of the Directorate of Standards and Methodologies, National Statistics Office.

10:30– 10:50 **UNCTAD's strategy for SIDS – UNCTAD**

Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

10:50 – 11:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

11:00-12:10 Session II: Productive capacities and structural transformation: measuring and benchmarking performances by using UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI) for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

This session is intended to relate the concepts of productive capacities and structural economic transformation to Dominican Republic's development endeavours, including policy implications for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The session will discuss UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI), which is an innovative approach applied by UNCTAD to measure and benchmark the level of development of productive capacities, and the National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment as the prelude for building productive capacities. It will examine Dominican Republic's PCI and discuss the success stories of building productive capacities and accelerating structural economic transformation.

11:00 – 11:05 Moderator: *Ms. Ana Melba Rosario, Minister Counsellor, Thematic Coordinator, Directorate of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

11:05–11:25 **Coordination among SIDS and its impact on the policy-making process in the Dominican Republic**

Mr. José R. Sánchez-Fung, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

11:25-11:45 **Dominican Republic's performance in UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index and policy implications**

Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

11:45-12:05 **Productive capacities in a comparative perspective – the success stories and the policy lessons for the Dominican Republic**

Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

12:05-12:15 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch Break

13:15-14:25 Session III: Digital Public Infrastructure, Governance and Interoperability for Strengthening Productive Capacities

This session will examine progress, gaps, and opportunities in the Dominican Republic to consolidate an integrated digital ecosystem that supports institutional efficiency, inter-agency coordination, and collaboration with the private sector and development partners.

Strengthening productive capacities requires robust digital public infrastructure, effective digital governance frameworks, and high levels of interoperability and operability among public institutions and external stakeholders, elements that are particularly critical for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to overcome scale constraints, improve service delivery, enhance regional and international connectivity, and foster inclusive and sustainable development.

13:15– 13:20 Moderator: *Mr. Tomás Tamares, Head of the Directorate of Economic Affairs, Vice Ministry for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

13:20-13:35 **Digital Connectivity, Interoperability, and ICT Infrastructure to Strengthen Productive Capacities in SIDS**

Mr. Cesar Moliné, Director of Cybersecurity, E-Commerce, and Digital Signature, Dominican Institute of Telecommunications

13:35-13:50 **Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Governance for Strengthening Productive Capacities in SIDS**

Ms. Ginsy Aguilera, Director of Digital Government, Ministry of Public Administration

13:50-14:05 UNCTAD intervention to share countries' experiences and success stories.

14:05-14:25 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

14:25 -15:00 Session IV: Private sector development and human capital formation: education and job creation for the youth

Private sector development and human capital formation are critical for the Dominican Republic's structural transformation and sustainable development. This session will focus on private sector development and human capital formation as critical in ensuring the robustness of structural economic transformation and as important factors in building productive capacities. It will discuss the gaps between the labour market's needs and the output of the educational system, as well as the youth unemployment.

14:25 – 14:30 Moderator: *Mr. Otto Rojas, Head of the Department of Macroeconomic and Sectoral Statistics, National Statistics Office*

14:30-15:00 ***Strengthening Human Capital for Labour Market Relevance: The Role of Private Sector Engagement in Youth Job Creation***
Ms. Perla Rosario, Director of Economic Statistics, National Statistical Office

15:00-15:15 UNCTAD intervention to share countries' experiences and success stories.

15:15-15:25 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

15:25 – 15:40 Coffee and Tea Break

15:40-16:00 Concluding Session

15:40-15:50 ***The summary of the workshop***
Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

15:50-16:00 ***Concluding remarks***

*Ms. Perla Rosario, Director of Economic Statistics, National Statistical Office
Mr. José Guillermo Sarita, Trade Negotiations Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*