



**SINGLE-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON THE IMPACT OF ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES,
INCLUDING BY HIGHLIGHTING REMITTANCES ON DEVELOPMENT:**

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH

12-14 November 2014

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Draft
PROGRAMME**

Wednesday, 12 November 2014

Wednesday, 12 November 2014	
10:00 - 11:00	<p><i>Opening Session</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of officers 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work 3. Impact of Access to Financial Services, Including by Highlighting Remittances on Development: Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth <p><i>Opening Remarks:</i> Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Presentation of the background note by the secretariat:</i> Ms. Mina Mashayekhi, Head, Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch, DITC, UNCTAD</p>
11:00 - 13:00	<p>Session 1: Trends in financial services and financial inclusion</p> <p><i>The session will review recent developments in the financial services sector considering its multidimensional importance: provision of infrastructure services with relevant linkages to the economy at large; and a noteworthy industry by itself in terms of contribution to output and employment. It will focus on the importance of financial inclusion for income opportunities, productive development and for the development impact of remittances. It will also discuss obstacles for financial inclusion, encompassing the particular situation of women and youth, considering effects deriving from market structure, regulatory framework, and foreign supply of financial services, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda for sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>Issues for Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the salient developments in financial services, their performance and international flows, in financial inclusion and in remittances? How can their measurement be improved? ▪ What is the potential development impact of financial inclusion on income opportunities, productive development and remittances, and how can this potential be better reaped? ▪ What are the main obstacles for financial inclusion including for women and youth and how can they be addressed? ▪ How to better include the contributions of the financial services sector in the post-2015 development agenda for sustainable development?

	<p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Kern Alexander, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Financial Analysis and Policy (CFAP), University of Cambridge ▪ Mr. G. Gopalakrishna, Director, Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), India ▪ Professor Jian Wang, Chair Professor, International Business and e-Business, Director of Center for International Business Studies, Director of Cross-Border E-commerce Research Center, University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) ▪ Mr. Ade Shonubi, Managing Director, Nigerian Interbank Settlement Scheme (NIBSS) ▪ Dr. Ndunge Kiiti, Professor of International Development, Department of Intercultural Studies, Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI), USA <p><i>Interactive Debate</i></p>
<p>15:00 - 18:00</p>	<p>Session 2: Policies and regulation for financial inclusion</p> <p><i>The session will examine how governments can promote financial inclusion through national policies, including an enabling environment for cost-effective access, an adequate regulatory and institutional framework and information environment, competition, consumer protection and empowerment policies including for women and youth. A particular focus will be placed on universal access to basic financial services and the role of subsidies and other direct interventions. It will also discuss the importance of evidence-based financial inclusion policies, principles and action which require data collection and analysis. The session will also review policies to promote financial literacy as a strategy to increase demand for financial services and thus contributing to financial inclusion and how policies and regulation for financial inclusion can be best discussed in the context of the post-2015 development agenda for sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>Issues for Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the policy mix that best enables financial inclusion objectives? ▪ What are the main challenges in the implementation of these enabling policies and how should they be addressed? ▪ How can a regulatory and institutional framework be designed and implemented to be adequate and proportionate? ▪ What is the role of government, private sector and civil society in the definition and implementation of the policy mix that promotes financial inclusion? <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Maria Soledad Martinez Peria, Research Manager / Ms. Leora Klapper, Lead Economist, Finance and Private Sector Development, Development Research Group, The World Bank (videoconference) ▪ Mr. Gopalakrishna Gurappa, Director, Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), India ▪ Mr. Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management ▪ Ms. Pia Bernadette Roman Tayag, Head, Inclusive Finance Advocacy, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Philippines ▪ Ms. María Fernanda Trigo Alegre, General Director, General Directorate of Access to Financial Services, National Banking and Securities Commission, Mexico (videoconference) <p><i>Interactive Debate</i></p>
<p>18:00</p>	<p>Cocktail (Venue: “Bar Escargot”, 3rd floor, Palais des Nations)</p>

Thursday, 13 November 2014

10:00 - 13:00

Session 3: Innovative business models and financial services

The session will examine innovative business models and services that have the potential to improve access to financial services of SMEs, microenterprises and individuals, with special attention to women and youth, in particular in developing countries. These include microfinance services, Islamic banking and state-owned, cooperative, development and community banks. This session will also discuss the greater use of “banking correspondent” networks and improved interoperability.

Issues for Discussion:

- How have innovative business models and services contributed to enhance access to financial services?
- To what extent is the potential of microfinance services limited and what are the issues that need to be attended to improve their potential?
- What is the role of government, state-owned, cooperative, development and community banks in improving financial access?
- What are the enabling conditions to promote access to financial services through the use of “banking correspondent and improved interoperability”?

Panellists:

- Mr. Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management
- Mr. Alexandre Berthaud, Financial Inclusion Program Manager, Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- Mr. Milford J. B. Bateman PhD, Freelance consultant on local economic development, Visiting Professor of Economics, Juraj Dobrila at Pula University, Croatia and Adjunct Professor of Development Studies, St Marys University, Halifax, Canada
- Mr. Ade Shonubi, Managing Director, Nigerian Interbank Settlement Scheme (NIBSS)

Interactive Debate

15:00 - 18:00

Session 4: Remittances and financial inclusion

The session will review the potential of remittances for social development and poverty reduction and, as a promising source of demand for financial services, the potential contribution to financial inclusion. It will discuss the importance of reducing transaction costs that impede remittance flows and their development gains and focus on some ways to promote that reduction. It will also address strategies to maximize the development impact of remittances either by enhancing their flows or by providing incentives to channel them to productive, social and infrastructure investments.

Issues for Discussion:

- What are the salient developments in remittances and their transaction costs, particularly in developing countries? How can their measurement be improved?
- What are the main barriers to remittance flows and drivers for high transaction costs and how can they be addressed? In this regard, what can be the role of trade, competition and other national policies and of regional integration?
- How can the development impact of remittances be maximized by channeling them to productive, social and infrastructure investments?
- How to better include the contributions of remittances in the post-2015 development framework for sustainable development?

Panellists:

- Mr. Stijn Claessens, Assistant Director / Division Chief, Financial Studies, Research Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF) (videoconference)
- Mr. Pedro de Vasconcelos, Manager, Financing Facility for Remittances, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
- Ms. Samia Kazi Aoul-Chaillou, Technical Officer, Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Mr. Tauhid Pasha, Senior Specialist, Labour Migration and Human Development, IOM
- Mr. Manuel Orozco, Director, Remittances and Development Program, Inter-American Dialogue (videoconference)

Interactive Debate

Friday, 14 November 2014

10:00 - 13:00

Session 5: New technologies to improve access to financial services

The session will review recent developments in financial services, financial inclusion and remittances deriving from new technologies. It will examine in particular the role of mobile money schemes in terms of extended coverage and cost optimization. The session will explore the potential of mobile money for the empowerment of women and youth and regulatory challenges related to their development. It will also discuss how new payment technologies have broaden access to basic financial services.

Issues for Discussion:

- What are the main recent developments in financial services and financial inclusion deriving from new technologies and from mobile money schemes in particular?
- What is the potential of mobile money schemes for financial services and financial inclusion, and how can this potential be harvested?
- What are the regulatory challenges regarding mobile money and how can they be addressed?
- What is the role of governments and the role of regional integration in removing barriers to mobile money schemes, including regulatory cooperation and interoperability?

Panellists:

- Ms. Andria Thomas, Associate Partner, Dalberg Global Development Advisors
- Professor Jian Wang, Chair Professor, International Business and e-Business, Director of Center for International Business Studies, Director of Cross-Border E-commerce Research Center, University of International Business and Economics (UIBE)
- Mr. Venkatesen Mauree, Programme Coordinator, Policy and Technology Watch Division, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Mr. Olutunmbi Idowu, Head, Compliance & Risk Control, Solution Area MCommerce Business Unit Support Solutions, Ericsson
- Mr. Nick Ashton Hart, Executive Director, Internet & Digital Ecosystem Alliance
- Mr. Yves Eonnet, Chief Executive Officer, Tagattitude

Interactive Debate

<p>15:00 - 17:00</p>	<p>Session 6: Financial inclusion, trade agreements and regulatory reform</p> <p><i>The session will examine the importance to financial inclusion of trade liberalization in financial services, related regulatory reform processes, and their coordination. It will review the differences in financial services commitments between multilateral, plurilateral and regional approaches, including mega regional trade agreements, and between modes of supply. It will also discuss issues such as stand-still requirements, the "ratchet clause" and measures focused on state-owned enterprises. A key focus will be the global financial regulatory landscape and its shift to macro-prudential objectives.</i></p> <p>Issues for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What features can be identified regarding trade liberalization of financial services in multilateral, plurilateral and regional approaches and to what extent they differ according to the mode of supply? • What is the potential impact of trade liberalization to financial inclusion? • How should trade liberalization and cooperation efforts be coordinated with regulatory processes in order to promote financial inclusion? • What is the potential impact of the global regulatory focus on macro-prudential objectives to financial inclusion goals in developing countries? <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hamid Mamdouh, Director, Division of Trade in Services, World Trade Organization (WTO) • Mrs. Marion Vernese Williams, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Barbados, Geneva • Ms. Dorothee Rouzet, Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Trade in Services Division, OECD, Paris • Ms. Myriam Vander Stichele, Senior Researcher, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) • Ms. Sanya Reid Smith, Senior Legal Adviser, Third World Network (tbc) • Ms. Melinda St. Louis, International Campaign Director, Public Citizen (videoconference) <p>Interactive Debate</p>
<p>17:00 - 18:00</p>	<p>Way Forward</p> <p>The session will take stock of the meeting's discussions, identify areas for further work for UNCTAD, and suggest practical approaches to improve access to financial services, including by highlighting remittances on development.</p>