



MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING

Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation

Palais des Nations, Geneva
26–27 October 2022

fifth session

Provisional programme

Wednesday, 26 October 2022
10–10.30 a.m. Opening plenary session

- Item 1** Election of officers
- Item 2** Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Informal session

- Item 3** Regional solutions for inclusive and sustainable development

Opening remarks **Richard Kozul-Wright**, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS), UNCTAD

Panel discussion: Development prospects in a fractured world – Global disorder and regional solutions

Faizel Ismail, Professor, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Lessons from the African Continental Free Trade Area: Advance climate-resilient developmental regionalism in Africa – How can South–South solidarity and a global green new deal help?

Erik Jones, Director, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
Lessons from European integration

Anastasia Nesvetailova, Chief of Service, Economic Affairs, DGDS, UNCTAD
Regionalism in a fractured world: Issues at stake

Question and answer session and discussion

- What institutional arrangements are best suited to managing the different interests and sensitivities of developing countries and developed countries, for a more inclusive and developmental international trade governance?

Wednesday, 26 October 2022
3–6 p.m. Informal session

Item 3 Regional solutions for inclusive and sustainable development

Panel discussion: Regional trade integration for sustainable development

Rashmi Banga, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD
South–South cooperation for sustainable development: Lessons for climate policy

Gohar Barseghyan, Director, Integration Development Department, Eurasian Economic Commission
Lessons from the Eurasian Economic Union

Deniz Ünal, Economist, CEPII[Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales], France
Trade regionalization confronted by the geopolitical fragmentation of globalization

Alex Izurieta, Chief of Service, Economic Affairs, DGDS, UNCTAD
Away from the global impasse? A South-led pathway

Question and answer session and discussion

- The pandemic has exposed profound fault lines in the functioning of global value chains. How can this opportunity be taken to relaunch regional value chains? What infrastructural investment is needed?
- The scope and impact of many regional trade agreements between economies of the global South remain limited despite their diffusion since the turn of the millennium. What additional provisions and/or clauses or complementary measures are needed to make these trade agreements more relevant?
- How can the phenomenon of trade regionalism be understood and to what extent can it be a steppingstone towards a more inclusive, constructive and cooperative approach to multilateralism?

Thursday, 27 October 2022
10 a.m.–1 p.m. Informal session

Item 3 Regional solutions for inclusive and sustainable development

Panel discussion: Global corporations, investment and regional development

Ronen Palan, Professor, International Politics, City University of London
Corporate arbitrage: Regional exposure

Annette Oguttu, Professor of Tax Law, University of Pretoria
Corporation tax arbitrage: Base erosion and profiting shifting occasioned by offshore indirect transfer of assets – Perspectives from Africa

Anastasia Nesvetailova, Chief of Service, Economic Affairs, DGDS, UNCTAD
Corporate arbitrage versus regional integration: Towards a systemic approach

Catherine Anderson, Team Lead, Governance for Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Corporate structure, commodity trading and illicit financial flow risks: Lessons for policy

Question and answer session and discussion

- What are the main challenges to regional integration posed by international corporate arbitrage?
- How can recent and ongoing international efforts be enhanced to improve global tax justice and corporate governance, to better address the investment needs of developing countries?
- What lessons do global corporate structures provide for the integration strategies of developing countries and regions?

Thursday, 27 October 2022
3–6 p.m. Informal session

Item 3 Regional solutions for inclusive and sustainable development

Panel discussion: Regional development banks

Leslie Maasdorp, Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer, New Development Bank
The urgency of scaling multilateral development banks: Challenges and prospects

Erik Berglof, Chief Economist, Asian Infrastructure Development Bank
The role of regional development banks in achieving integrated development and providing international public goods

Olga Mikheeva, Research Fellow, Public Banking, Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London
Models of development finance and cooperation across the international financial system

Ulrich Volz, Professor of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Can green finance drive international financial institutions towards sustainable approaches to regional financial integration and reducing sovereign risk?

Question and answer session and discussion

- The fact that finance can be found at times of urgency, such as during the pandemic, does not necessarily mean it is directed to where it is most needed. How can Governments show more support for national and regional public banks, including through finance and capitalization, guarantees or political willingness to support a more public and developmental mandate?
- What are the implications of the growing dominance of bilateral capital flows compared with financial support for regional institutions?
- How can regional banks and regional financing arrangements better contribute to the international financial architecture? Can they be a useful steppingstone to a more equitable and effective multilateralism?

Closing plenary session

Item 4 Adoption of the report of the meeting