

9 – 10 December 2024

Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

9 December

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

1.30 – 2.45 p.m.

Side-event

Room XXVI

3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

10 December

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

➤ **Commodities amid the climate emergency: Sustainable trade and value addition**

Adaptation to the energy transition in fossil fuel-dependent developing countries

Of the 95 commodity-dependent countries, 28 depend on fossil fuel products and, in 17 of these countries, a single fossil fuel product makes up over half of total merchandise exports. In addition, many of these countries depend on the commodity sector for over half of all fiscal revenues, in some cases exceeding 80 per cent, and reduced public revenue could lead to difficulties in financing public expenditure, as well as a variety of development challenges.

At this session, panellists will discuss how these countries are preparing to address the macroeconomic challenges related to the transition away from fossil fuels and identify environmentally sustainable opportunities through value addition, to foster economic growth.

**UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – UN Development Programme (UNDP) /
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean:
Joint Agreement to Strengthen Traceability in Latin American Coffee Value Chains**

Promoting natural fibers in the climate action agenda

Climate action is transforming regulations, standards and consumption patterns. For industry, the objective is to identify strategies that position natural fibres as ecofriendly substitutes for synthetic fibres; for Governments, the objective is to leverage the development benefits of natural fibres, from increasing farmer incomes and local value addition to reducing environmental impacts.

At this session, panellists will examine the prospects for natural fibres in this context.

Fostering sustainable trade in agricultural commodities: the role of standards and traceability

Up to two thirds of species are supported by tropical forests; deforestation therefore poses a direct threat to biodiversity, contributing directly and indirectly to climate change, and agriculture is an important causal factor of deforestation. Therefore, strengthening agricultural value chains requires an increased understanding of the challenges to and opportunities in achieving economic and environmental sustainability and, amid increasing interest in sustainable agricultural value chains, full traceability solutions and mandatory environmental standards require international dialogue and cooperation on design, implementation and monitoring.

At this session, panellists will address the role of international cooperation in fostering sustainable agricultural value chains and seek inclusive solutions to the related challenges.

Harnessing benefits from critical energy transition minerals

The demand for key minerals, often found in developing countries, is expected to increase rapidly as the energy transition moves forward. In this context, it is crucial to ensure that producing developing countries play an important role in value addition with regard to these minerals, ensuring that sufficient benefits reach local communities and that environmental damage is avoided; these countries also need to partake in the opportunities, to develop their own industries related to these minerals, which could create jobs, boost economic growth and reduce reliance on raw material exports.

At this session, panellists will explore how producing developing countries can equitably benefit from natural resources by exploring opportunities for value addition and diversification in the minerals value chain; mitigating environmental and social risks; and examining financing options.

Website, Programme, Reports and Registration:

<https://unctad.org/meeting/global-commodities-forum-2024>

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