



DTL/KDB/MISC/2022/2  
(21/10gd)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Forty-sixth regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda University of Nairobi, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya**

**11–22 April 2022**

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda, which is designed for African economies, will be hosted by the University of Nairobi with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya. The course will be held from 11 to 22 April 2022.

The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of the global pandemic and response to shocks. Its aims are as follows:

- (a) To enhance understanding of the relationship between trade, investment, finance and development and their link to country development strategies and building resilience.
- (b) To enhance participants' understanding of current economic debates, the economic impact of the pandemic, the Sustainable Development Goals and what this implies for policymakers in developing countries.
- (c) To provide participants with knowledge and skills that will prepare them for negotiations, as well as to design and implement trade and development policies. These tools are designed to meet the needs and interests of their countries.

The syllabus will draw on the perspective of UNCTAD, its analytical work and lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities and will be enriched by the competence and expertise of representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Experts from Kenya will share national experiences in promoting and managing trade, investment, finance, development and policies formulated in response to the global pandemic.

The course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials in ministries and institutions dealing with trade, investment, finance, technology and development issues, who are involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies. Depending on the availability of places, other applicants, such as university academics, may be considered.

The course will be given in English, with simultaneous interpretation into French. Training materials will be made available in English, with some documentation in French. Candidates are expected to have a full working knowledge of English.

In the interest of efficiency, the application process includes two parts. First, UNCTAD member States of Africa are invited to present, by **24 February 2022**, the names and email addresses of qualified candidates to the secretariat through their permanent mission in Geneva. Second, these candidates will be contacted by the secretariat to complete an application online; the application process must be completed by **3 March 2022**. It is therefore advisable that this information be submitted as soon as possible. Member States of successful candidates will be notified of the decision of UNCTAD following the selection committee meeting to be held on **10 March 2022**.

Member States are encouraged to nominate more than one candidate per country, in which case they may wish to rank the candidates. The selection committee will take this ranking into consideration, provided that the preferred candidate meets the eligibility criteria.

UNCTAD will provide hotel accommodation for all participants, who will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Requests for travel arrangements for selected participants should be made at the time of nomination. Selected participants will be responsible for obtaining adequate travel and medical insurance and a valid visa for travel to Kenya prior to their arrival.

An outline of the course syllabus, which provides a list of topics, learning objectives and questions for applicants to answer (P166.2018.TS.1), and the application guidelines (P166.2018.AG.1) are attached.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Randa Jamal, Officer-in-Charge, Policy Capacity-Building Section/P166, Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD; tel.: 41 22 917 2718; email: [randajamal@un.org](mailto:randajamal@un.org).



Rebeca Grynspan  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD  
8 February 2022

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**Course syllabus outline**

This outline describes the three course modules. For each module, participants will be expected to gather information on a number of issues before the beginning of the course, in order that they can contribute to discussions by sharing the experiences of their countries.

**Module 1. Development, development policies and the role of international trade and finance in a globalized world – Implications for African economies**

**Description.** This module highlights topical economic issues at the global level and explores their implications for development strategies at the national level. It uses the UNCTAD integrated approach to discuss development challenges, examining the interdependence between different policy areas, including macroeconomic policies and management, international trade and finance, as well as new views regarding the nature and role of the developmental State in the light of the ongoing and lingering effects of the global financial, economic crisis and, most recently, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which hit the global economy the hardest. The module also addresses the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and their policy implications. The pursuit of national and international development policies and strategies is placed in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, which provide the overall framework for sustainable development policies in the 2015–2030 period. Opportunities to discuss national and regional experiences on country-specific aspects will help to promote the sharing of national experiences from across the region.

**Expected outcome:** At the end of this module, participants will have deepened their understanding of the implications of trade and financial integration for inclusive economic growth, structural change and technological upgrading. They should also be able to understand key challenges of development policies to achieve both economic and human development, as well as economic growth. Participants will thus develop their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas and to respond to pandemics, at the national, regional and international levels, with a deepened knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Module 2. Harnessing benefits from trade: Changing dynamics in the multilateral trading system, trade logistics, regional trade agreements and the digital economy**

**Description.** This module will highlight the role of trade and technology as an enabler of development. It will address best practices and policy norms for harnessing the benefits of trade, including the evolving digital economy. In view of the economic and social devastations the COVID-19 pandemic inflicted on most countries around the world, the development paradigm that underpins the world economic model seems to have reached its limits. Direct interventions by States through fiscal and financial stimulus packages to mitigate the effects of the crisis on their economies have become the “new normal”. Consequently, import-dependent poor countries’ efforts to tackle the crisis have come up against non-coordinated trade policy responses, including export restrictions on essential goods. Large-scale subsidies introduced by major economies to salvage ailing industries are likely to distort international trade. Against this backdrop, the module addresses the impact of the current pandemic on trade policies and the international trading system. It explores the likely future contours of the international trading system in the light of the ongoing global health crisis, structural

difficulties of the World Trade Organization and the increasing level of trade tensions and unilateral protectionist trade measures. The module provides an analytical overview of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, including the negotiating process and the main reasons which led to the collapse of these negotiations.

**Expected outcome.** At the end of this module, participants will be cognizant of important factors that affect the design of appropriate national trade policies and development strategies and able to identify and understand key challenges and development opportunities in the international trading system and regional trade agreements and to maximize gains from integration into the global economy. Participants will also better understand the role of the regulatory environment, the institutional and physical trade infrastructures and trade supporting services in fostering international trade competitiveness in terms of supporting productive and trading capacities, including transport, trade facilitation, and electronic commerce and the digital economy.

### **Module 3. Enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment, enterprise development, and science, technology and innovation**

**Description.** The module will analyse the main features of enterprise development, foreign direct investment, and science, technology and innovation, as well as their development implications and the policy and administrative challenges they raise. It will investigate their role in broader development strategies and their relationship with enterprise and industrial policies aimed at enhancing productive capacity. The module will start with an understanding of the development perspective that needs to be addressed when enhancing productive capacities in an economy; it will then provide an analysis of foreign direct investment, which will provide a basis for an assessment of the links of international production systems with domestic enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, through value chains. As foreign direct investment is mainly a complement to domestic investment, attention will be paid to the questions of how domestic productive capacity can be enhanced through local enterprise development and how promoting technological upgrading and innovation capacity can bring benefits from global trade opportunities. The focus will be on the policies, institutions and strategies that can best attract foreign direct investment and embed it in host economies, notably through business linkages and enterprise development, and on why science, technology and innovation systems and innovation capacity are critical for competitiveness and sustainable development. The session will also look at the development of value chains, a cross-cutting issue between the three areas analysed. The module will pay special attention to the situation of productive capacities in the current pandemic and its impact on productive capacities and the policies that could potentially be adopted by national stakeholders to further build resilience, respond to and cope with the consequences of COVID-19.

**Expected outcome.** At the end of this training module, participants will be able to understand the policy framework for developing productive capacities and identifying the link between foreign direct investment, development and the impact on local productive capacities. They will also be able to identify the link between small and medium-sized enterprises and development, particularly the linkages for formulating strategies. They will also be able to identify the linkages between innovation and development, particularly how an effective science, technology and innovation system and strong science, technology and innovation capabilities can improve enhancing local productive capacities, competitiveness and promoting sustainable development. They will be able identify strategies to cope with the medium- and long-term consequences of the pandemic in the area of productive capacity-building.

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**Questions for applicants**

All applicants will be contacted by email to complete an online application. Kindly ensure that names and email addresses are sent to the secretariat by **24 February 2022**.

The online application must include responses to two of the questions provided below. All applicants must answer question 1. They must then answer either question 2 or question 3.

Please ensure that responses take into account the economic development objectives of the applicant's country. The reply to each question should not exceed 250 words.

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Question 1 (compulsory):

How is national development planning undertaken in your country? What are the broad macroeconomic principles and objectives that determine your Government's approach and the choice of policies used? What is the role of economic development, and which are the relevant agencies responsible for its implementation? What are the indicators that best measure economic development in your country? What do they show about your country?

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Please answer one of the following two questions:

Question 2:

What roles do trade, investment and finance policies play in addressing economic challenges in your country? What domestic and international constraints affect the choice and design of these policies and their implementation? What are their main effects?

**or**

Question 3:

What roles do technology and/or entrepreneurship and/or trade logistics play in supporting economic development in your country? Are these issues incorporated into your national economic development plans and strategies? If so, how? Give a brief description of the main challenges faced with respect to each of these three issues. If they are not part of your national economic development plans and strategies, explain why.

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**Application guidelines**

**Applicant profile**

This course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials dealing with international economic issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies in one or more fields covered in the course syllabus (outline attached). To be considered for nomination, candidates should meet the following requirements:

- (a) Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, trade law or public administration. A first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted if places in the course are available;
- (b) Have 4–10 years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a research institute or a university, dealing with trade, investment, finance, technology and development issues and be involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies;
- (c) Be in a position to use and disseminate the information and knowledge acquired during the course. It is important that participants remain in relevant positions for a sufficient length of time after completion of the course so that the skills and knowledge gained can be disseminated as widely as possible at their workplace;
- (d) Have a full working knowledge of English, the official language of the course, with proven written and verbal communication skills.

**Instructions for submitting applications online**

Candidates will be contacted to complete an online application. Applications must be submitted in English by **3 March 2022** and include the following documents:

- (a) Application form;
- (b) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- (c) Letter of motivation stating the following: how the applicant contributes to policy design and implementation in the areas of trade, investment, finance and technology; how the course will contribute to enhancing his or her professional and personal development; and why the applicant feels he or she should be chosen to attend this course;
- (d) Short essay answering question 1 and one of the other two questions in the course syllabus outline relevant to his or her national context (no more than 250 words per question).

**Nominations**

Nominations should be submitted by **24 February 2022** to UNCTAD through the permanent mission accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva or the World Trade Organization and contain the names and email addresses of the candidates. Nominated candidates will be contacted and asked to complete the online application by **3 March 2022**. It is therefore advisable that names and email addresses be communicated as soon as possible to the UNCTAD secretariat.

Nominations should be addressed to:

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Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD  
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