



ALDC/MISC/2013/1  
(13/18ams)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Expert Meeting on Tourism's Contribution to Sustainable Development**

**Geneva, 14–15 March 2013**

The Expert Meeting on Tourism's Contribution to Sustainable Development will be held on 14 and 15 March 2013, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 14 March 2013.

#### **Background and purpose of the meeting**

This expert meeting is aimed at sharing knowledge and identifying key issues and policy options related to sustainable tourism and its contribution to economic growth and sustainable development.

Tourism has the potential to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction, in particular in low-income developing countries. The capacity of the sector to generate employment and income due to its backward and forward linkages makes it important for economic diversification and growth. At the same time, however, the negative impact it can inflict on the environment and cultures cannot be overlooked. To ensure that tourism provides employment and income opportunities in the long run and contributes to sustainable development, its operations, including the activities that are linked with it, must also be sustainable. This calls for ambitious strategies and policy agendas.

The expert meeting will explore how the potential of tourism can be enhanced while at the same time addressing risks and concerns. It will provide an opportunity to:

- (a) Address the key issues regarding the contribution of tourism to economic growth and sustainable development. The key questions are:
  - (i) What are the specific features of tourism that make it pertinent for domestic capacity-building and economic development and particularly relevant for poverty reduction?
  - (ii) What are the negative aspects of tourism that require policymakers to pay extra attention in formulating policies and strategies for tourism development?
  - (iii) How can governments attract adequate levels of investment to build supply capacities, develop effective linkages between tourism and various other sectors, and at the same time address economic leakage and anticompetitive practices in the tourism industry?



- (iv) Given that tourism-related activities rely on the development of infrastructure, the preservation of the environment and cultural heritage sites, and the supply of energy and water, for example, how can tourism as an economic activity be made sustainable?
  - (v) What are the policies and strategies that governments need to pursue to promote sustainable tourism and to ensure that tourism contributes to sustainable development?
- (b) Identify areas for further inter-agency collaboration and knowledge sharing in sustainable development.

## Participation

UNCTAD member States are requested to nominate experts no later than **28 February 2013**. The nominees, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject and may be selected from governmental or non-governmental organizations, or from private entities or academia. International and regional organizations are also invited to nominate their participants.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category wishing to participate as observers, are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by **28 February 2013**.

## Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds at the time of nomination, funds may be allocated to finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Governments requiring funding are invited to clearly request financing in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that funds currently available in the dedicated Trust Fund are very limited (up to a total of three experts), and nominations shall be considered based on that availability. The decision as to which experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the nominated experts, on the principle of equitable geographical representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular, least developed countries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received no later than **20 February 2013** and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

- (a) Curriculum vitae;
- (b) Mailing address;
- (c) Telephone and fax number;
- (d) E-mail address;
- (e) Name of a contact person in the permanent mission in Geneva.

Once the list of experts to be financed has been finalized, all travel arrangements will be made in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations – that is, the use of the least costly fare will be applied.



## Background documents and contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, is being circulated as document TD/B/C.I/EM.5/1. In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note, which is being circulated as document TD/B/C.I/EM.5/2.

These documents and further information are available on the UNCTAD website ([www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)) under the heading "Meetings".

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (approximately five pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda. These papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be submitted by **4 March 2013** to the substantive division in the UNCTAD secretariat whose contact details are provided in this notification.

## Logistics

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Upon arrival, participants are requested, before entering the Palais des Nations, to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in the E-Building (Bâtiment E) of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations and visitors will therefore be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the United Nations Security Service gives special clearance.

## Further information and contact details

Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, fax: + 41 (0)22 917 0214; e-mail: [meetings@unctad.org](mailto:meetings@unctad.org).

All other enquiries should be addressed to the substantive division, to the attention of Ms. Claudia Roethlisberger ([claudia.roethlisberger@unctad.org](mailto:claudia.roethlisberger@unctad.org), tel: +41 (0)22 917 5638, fax: +41 (0)22 917 0046) or Ms. Paulette Lacroix ([paulette.lacroix@unctad.org](mailto:paulette.lacroix@unctad.org), tel: +41 (0)22 917 5982, fax: +41 (0)22 917 0046).

(signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

11 February 2013