



DTL/STICT/MISC/2014/2
(14/06ams)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development

Geneva, 19–21 March 2014

The second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development will be held from 19 to 21 March 2014, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 March 2014.

Background and purpose of the meeting

This multi-year expert meeting is aimed at identifying and discussing policy frameworks, instruments, and key capabilities to promote innovation for productive capacity-building and sustainable development in developing countries.

The impact on development of technological progress and innovation extends well beyond their direct effects on productivity and growth. Science, technology and innovation (STI) are essential to achieve the goals that the international community has set for itself in terms of sustainable and inclusive development. Yet, strong innovation performance remains a feature of only a handful of countries, where innovation has become an embedded feature of the economic system. Spreading innovation capabilities and making those capabilities more relevant to the needs of the poor remains a fundamental development policy challenge.

In this context, the meeting will focus on how developing countries can establish innovation policies adapted to their specific needs and environment. Particular attention will be paid to the capabilities that developing countries can concentrate on as a priority for better innovation performance across firms and the economy as a whole, and to the role that regional and interregional cooperation can play in the development of capabilities relating to STI. Experts will also discuss the experience of developing countries with various innovation policy instruments (for example, innovation funding, fiscal incentives, technology parks and incubators, public-private partnerships and collaboration between business and academia, and the linkages that should be developed with other policy areas. In this context, the role of global value chains in making STI capacity an instrument for supporting national development, helping local industry become more competitive, and for developing export diversification efforts of developing countries will also be examined.

Participation

UNCTAD member States are requested to nominate experts no later than 7 March 2014. 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 and non-governmental organizations, private entities and academia. The meeting may be of particular interest to investment-development stakeholders. 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 7 March 2014.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds in the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts at the time of nomination, funds may be allocated to finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries, including least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition. Governments requiring funding are therefore invited to explicitly request this 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 for each meeting), 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. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than 17 February 2014 and should be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

- (a) Curriculum vitae
- (b) Mailing address
- (c) Telephone and fax numbers
- (d) E-mail address
- (e) Name of a contact person in the respective 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.II/MEM.4/4. In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note, which is being circulated as document TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/5.

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

In addition, all experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers related to one or several of the issues contained in the provisional agenda for the meeting, and/or brief papers relating to their country's regional integration initiatives and their impact on promoting investment for sustainable development. These papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and the language in which they are received.

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 22 917 0214; e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinators in the substantive division, Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz, Chief Policy Review Section (angel.gonzalez-sanz@unctad.org), and Ms. Claudia Contreras, Economic Affairs Officer (claudia.contreras@unctad.org), tel: 41 22 917 3313, fax: 41 22 917 0052.

(p.p. signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

31 January 2014