



SUC/MISC/2014/1  
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## NOTIFICATION

### Global Commodities Forum

Geneva, 7–8 April 2014

The Global Commodities Forum will be held on 7–8 April 2014, in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, 7 April, in room XXVI.

The fifth meeting of the Forum, organized by UNCTAD with the support of its partners, is a major multi-stakeholder meeting where participants will be able to discuss potential solutions to perennial problems in the commodity economy.

The theme of the Forum is “Global value chains, transparency, and commodity-based development”.

During the first day of the Forum, participants will explore issues and experiences in the commodity sector through the lens of regional and global value chains, a concept that extends beyond sector and supply chain perspectives, to encompass issues such as responsible investment, regional interdependencies and equitable value distribution. Improved governance is another key issue in commodity global value chains, especially as regulatory reform gathers pace in the extractive, trading and derivatives sectors. For example, how does private global governance operate through value chains? How does private governance interact with public governance in regulating or shaping standards and performance in the commodity sector?

Indeed, governance provides the link between global value chains, and the second day of the Forum is devoted to transparency. Participants will begin by examining the various perspectives on transparency held by stakeholders such as governments, industry and civil society, aiming to arrive at common principles that can contribute to the transparency-themed regulatory reform in the commodities sector. Subsequent sessions will address specific issues such as new legislation, disclosure rules, data analysis and sharing, and institutional requirements. The Forum will also look at case studies: countries’ multifaceted approaches to enhancing transparency, as well as multi-stakeholder efforts such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

### Participation

The Forum will bring together ministers and other high-level representatives of governments, banks, trading companies, producers and non-governmental organizations, as well as academics, experts and the press.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to help disseminate the information about the Forum to the main stakeholders in their countries, thus facilitating their participation.

Participants in this high-level multi-stakeholder meeting will attend in their personal capacities, and will include leading policymakers, businesspeople and experts from the commodity economy.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to take part in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories wishing to attend as observers, are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by 28 March 2014.

## **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 to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix, before entering the Palais des Nations. 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 Security Service has provided special clearance.

## **Enquiries**

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](mailto:meetings@unctad.org) or [gcf@unctad.org](mailto:gcf@unctad.org).

All other enquiries should be addressed to Samuel K. Gayi, Head of the Special Unit on Commodities, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, tel.: 41 22 917 2131; fax: 41 22 917 0509; e-mail: [samuel.gayi@unctad.org](mailto:samuel.gayi@unctad.org), Catherine Katongola-Lindelof, tel.: 41 22 917 1648; fax: 41 22 917 0509; e-mail: [catherine.katongola@unctad.org](mailto:catherine.katongola@unctad.org) or Danièle Boglio, tel.: 41 22 917 6286; [daniele.boglio@unctad.org](mailto:daniele.boglio@unctad.org).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

29 January 2014