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NOTIFICATION

Expert Meeting on Social Inclusion Programmes and Their Impact on Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth

Geneva, 27–28 November 2014

The Expert Meeting on Social Inclusion Programmes and Their Impact on Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth will be held on 27 and 28 November 2014, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 27 November 2014.

Background and purpose of the meeting

This expert meeting is aimed at sharing knowledge and identifying key issues and policy options related to social inclusion programmes and how they relate to inclusive growth and development.

With widespread economic growth in the 2000s, including in some of the poorest economies in the world, there was high expectation that growth would lead to inclusive development. However, the growth experienced in developing countries has not always induced a genuinely inclusive development process, particularly when growth performance did not generate substantial or durable employment opportunities. The “jobless growth” experienced by many developing countries has intensified the debate on inclusiveness and equity in the growth and development process. In response to growing concerns about inequality and the failure, in some developing countries, to achieve “inclusive development”, Governments have turned to special programmes and strategies specifically aimed at enhancing the inclusiveness of growth and development.

The objective of the expert meeting is to identify social inclusion programmes that could benefit disadvantaged groups within the framework of structural transformation efforts, with a view to highlighting the expected poverty reduction effects of relevant policies. The meeting is expected to:

- (a) Promote among participants a better understanding of social inclusion programmes and their synergies with structural transformation efforts from a poverty reduction perspective;
- (b) Identify best practices in the development of economic sectors with inclusive effects, particularly agriculture, small industries and tourism, and in providing access to finance for smallholder farms and small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (c) Cast light on ways to maximize the impact of social inclusion programmes on overall economic performance.

Participation

UNCTAD member States are requested to nominate experts no later than **17 November 2014 (or 31 October 2014 if funding is requested)**. 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 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 **17 November 2014**.

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. **Nominated experts should have in-depth knowledge of social inclusion programmes at the national level.** 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 two 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 **31 October 2014** 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.7/1. In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note, which is being circulated as document TD/B/C.I/EM.7/2.

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

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (approximately 5–10 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 **17 November 2014** 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.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested 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 Building E (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 gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [Expert Meeting on Social Inclusion Programmes and Their Impact on Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth](#). 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 substantive division, to the attention of Ms. Claudia Roethlisberger (claudia.roethlisberger@unctad.org, tel: +41 22 917 5638, fax: +41 22 917 0046) or Ms. Paulette Lacroix (paulette.lacroix@unctad.org, tel: +41 22 917 5982, fax: +41 22 917 0046).

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

14 October 2014