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NOTIFICATION

Expert Meeting on the Transformation of the International Investment Agreement Regime: The Path Ahead

Geneva, 25–27 February 2015

The Expert Meeting on the Transformation of the International Investment Agreement Regime: The Path Ahead will be held on 25–27 February 2015, in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 February.

Background and purpose of the meeting

This expert meeting will advance the discussions that were commenced at the 2014 Annual International Investment Agreements Conference (IIA Conference), which took place during the 2014 World Investment Forum (Geneva, 13–16 October). The objective of the intensive three-day meeting in February is to develop a roadmap for reform through an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder approach and thereby carry forward the work of the IIA Conference.

Experts, including a wide range of stakeholders from the investment and development community, are expected to discuss today's pressing reform issues and identify concrete strategies and action points that will help shape a sustainable-development friendly international investment framework and improved global investment governance.

Participation

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts no later than 11 February 2015. Experts who will be participating 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 or academia. The meeting may be of particular interest to experts involved in the negotiation or implementation of IIAs, or the prevention or management of investor–State dispute settlement cases.

Specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and regional organizations wishing to participate in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category, as well as academia, wishing to participate as observers, are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by 11 February 2015.

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 IIAs and/or investor–State dispute settlement mechanisms. 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, and nominations will 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 23 January 2015 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 least costly fare will be applied.

Background documents and contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document [TD/B/C.II/EM.4/1](#). In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note, which will be circulated as [TD/B/C.II/EM.4/2](#).

The documents and information will be 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 more of the issues contained in the provisional meeting agenda, as well as those relating to their country's experience on and vision for reforming the IIAs regime/network. With a view to ensuring high-quality papers and accessibility of information to interested stakeholders, experts are asked to limit themselves to two pages or a maximum of 1,000 words. These papers will be made available online to the meeting in the language in which they are received.

Other background documentation:

- IIA Conference, 16 October 2014: The [written statements](#) of lead discussants offer insights into reform proposals. A [technical summary](#) prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat provides an overview of the discussions;
- [World Investment Report 2014. Investing in the SDGs: An Action Plan](#);
- The UNCTAD report "[Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development](#)";
- The UNCTAD IIA Issues Note "[Reform of the IIA Regime: Four Paths of Action and a Way Forward](#)";
- The UNCTAD IIA Issues Note "[Reform of Investor–State Dispute Settlement: In Search of a Roadmap](#)";
- The UNCTAD IIA Issues Note "[Recent Developments in Investor–State Dispute Settlement](#)" in 2013 and 2012.

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 the Transformation of the International Investment Agreement Regime: The Path Ahead](#). 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 coordinator in the substantive division, Ms. Nathalie Eulaerts; tel.: 41 22 917 55 07; e-mail: nathalie.eulaerts@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

7 January 2015