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NOTIFICATION

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

Geneva, 30–31 March 2015

The third session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will be held from 30 to 31 March 2015 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 30 March.

Background and purpose of the meeting

This multi-year expert meeting is aimed at discussing the interplay between entrepreneurship and productive capacity-building in developing countries, highlighting the role of entrepreneurship in creating job opportunities and engendering inclusive outcomes for disadvantaged groups, including women and youth. It will identify good practices on how to maximize the positive impact of entrepreneurship promotion on productive capacity-building, and how to make sure that all key stakeholders in government, the private sector and civil society work collaboratively.

The meeting will also explore how to enhance local productive capacities through promoting entrepreneurship in inclusive and sustainable value chains. The integration of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in regional and global value chains requires the development of programmes and initiatives aimed at skills upgrading, and policy intervention in key areas such as women's, youth, green and social entrepreneurship. In this respect, the expert meeting will benefit from the lessons learned from UNCTAD's technical assistance projects and research and analysis in these areas.

While policies and practices from developed countries will provide some examples, the expert meeting will mainly focus on strategies and programmes for developing countries and economies in transition. Experts will discuss practical and implementation-level challenges that development institutions face in developing countries and economies in transition with regard to their role as stakeholders in entrepreneurship and productive capacities-led development.

The ultimate goal of the meeting is to identify and discuss policy frameworks, instruments, and key capabilities to promote entrepreneurship for productive capacity-building and sustainable development. The meeting will benefit from the lessons learned from the implementation of UNCTAD's Entrepreneurship Policy Framework in several countries and will share international good practices on entrepreneurship and productive capacity-building that can assist policymakers in developing and implementing national policies addressing these issues.

Participation

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [MEM on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development](#). 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.



States members of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts no later than **2 March 2015**. 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 20 March 2015.

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 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. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than **2 March 2015** 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.4/7](#). 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.4/8](#).

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

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Ms. Fulvia Farinelli, Enterprise Branch, Division on Investment and Enterprise, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: 41 22 917 0122; e-mail: fulvia.farinelli@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

3 February 2015