



DTL/STICT/MISC/2016/2
(16/18ams)

NOTIFICATION

Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Data Protection and Privacy: Implications for Trade and Development

Geneva, 19–20 April 2016

The Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Data Protection and Privacy: Implications for Trade and Development will be held on 19–20 April 2016 in Room XXIII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 19 April.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The increasing global relevance of activities and transactions online and the changing nature of the information economy increases the importance of harmonized data protection and privacy frameworks that can help foster innovation and trade while at the same time protect against unnecessary intrusions. Recent and expected regulatory changes in the field of data protection and privacy, as well as diverging approaches in different parts of the world, call for renewed discussion on possible ways forward.

This ad hoc expert meeting will contribute to global communication on the subject and to the understanding of emerging topics in data protection and privacy, and new challenges and opportunities, as these relate to unlocking the potential for cross-border trade. Industry players and consumers, as well as Governments and international organizations will present their perspectives and outline the latest developments, current practices and relevant frameworks.

Nominations and participation

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Data Protection and Privacy. Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0050; e-mail: minjae.kim@unctad.org.

UNCTAD member States are requested to nominate experts no later than **5 April 2016**. The nominees, 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. International and regional organizations are also invited to nominate participants.

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 the same date.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds, the financing of officially nominated experts from developing countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition will be considered. 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, 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, the principle of equitable geographical representation and the needs of beneficiaries. Any changes of nominees will be considered to be new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financial assistance should be received no later than **14 March 2016** 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 receive financial assistance 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

In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat will make available a study on “Data protection and privacy: Implications for trade and development”. The study will be available in English only. The documents and information will be available shortly at the following link: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1068>.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (approximately 5 pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional meeting agenda, as well as those relating to their country’s experience. These papers will be made available to the meeting online in 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 English, French and Spanish.

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. to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; therefore, visitors will be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service grants special clearance.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Min Jae Kim, tel.: 41 22 917 5369; e-mail: minjae.kim@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

23 February 2016