



DITC/TED/MISC/2016/2  
(16/66gd)

## NOTIFICATION

**The Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Ocean Institute and UNCTAD**

**International Seminar on Oceans Economy and Trade:  
Sustainable Fisheries, Transport and Tourism**

**Geneva, 10 to 12 May 2016**

The Commonwealth secretariat, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and UNCTAD are jointly organizing an International Seminar on Oceans Economy and Trade: Sustainable Fisheries, Transport and Tourism. The seminar will be held from 10 to 12 May 2016 in Room VIII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 May.

The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Mere Falemaka, Permanent Representative, Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, Geneva office and opened by Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) of UNCTAD, Mr. Mohammad A. Razzaque, Head of the International Trade Policy Section of the Commonwealth secretariat, and Mr. Awni Behnam, Honorary President of IOI.

### **Purpose**

The seminar aims to (a) enhance the understanding of the concept of the ocean economy and related linkages to trade; (b) examine how trade and related rules and policy, can promote Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)14 and other SDGs; (c) underscore the interdependence of ocean-based sectors and related policy implications. Ongoing work by the Commonwealth secretariat, IOI and UNCTAD aimed at implementing SDG 14 and relevant best practice will also be presented. The event will bring together a broad-based audience, including leading global experts on trade, sustainable fisheries, transport and tourism, Geneva-based country delegates and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### **Background**

With oceans and seas covering over two thirds of the earth's surface, their health and productivity are critical for livelihoods, climate, economic growth, global trade and sustainable development. The world ocean-based economy is valued at an estimated \$3 trillion to \$6 trillion per year. More than 3 billion people rely on the oceans for their livelihoods and more than 350 million jobs globally are linked to the oceans. Today, countries are increasingly recognizing that healthy, productive and resilient oceans and seas are of the essence for a sustainable development path. These, are however, facing significant pressures and sustainability risks arising from climate and non-climate related factors, over-exploitation and poor management of marine resources and unsustainable economic growth patterns.

In response to this threat, SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda is exclusively dedicated to oceans and commits UN Member States “to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. SDG 14 is intended to be part of an “integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development” and there are important interlinkages between Goal 14 and a number of other Goals that are of direct relevance to various ocean-based economic sectors and activities including fisheries, tourism and transport and associated trade in goods and services.

Trade in marine products and services can create opportunities for economic growth, export diversification and new investments. Trade sectors with significant potential include sustainable fishing and aquaculture, sustainable and resilient maritime transport and logistics services, as well as eco-tourism.

## **Documents and contributed papers**

The provisional agenda is enclosed.

Background materials for the event include *Tracing the Blue Economy* by Awni Behnam (IOI, 2014); *The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States* (UNCTAD, 2014); Trade in sustainable fisheries: Policy and regulatory issues (UNCTAD, 2016, in preparation); Oceans economy infographics (UNCTAD, 2016, in preparation); *The State of World Fish and Aquaculture* (FAO, 2014); *Fish to 2030: Prospects for Fisheries and Aquaculture* (World Bank, 2013); *Review of Maritime Transport 2015* (UNCTAD, 2015); *Closing the Distance: Partnerships for Sustainable and Resilient Transport Systems in Small Island Developing States* (UNCTAD, 2014); *Developing sustainable and resilient transport systems in view of emerging challenges* (UNCTAD, 2014); *Maritime Transport and the Climate Change Challenge* (UNCTAD, 2012); and *Climate change impacts and adaptation: A challenge for global ports* (UNCTAD, 2011).

Panellists are invited to submit their views and contributions on the main theme of the seminar in the form of PowerPoint presentations and short notes in English. Contributions should reflect the key messages and recommendations for action. The presentations will be made available at the meeting in the form in which they are received. Panellists can consult the key messages and recommendations made at the UNCTAD and Commonwealth secretariat Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on Trade in Sustainable Fisheries of 2015 (see <http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ditc-ted-AHEM-29092015-Chair-Conclusion.pdf>).

## **Participation**

All panellists will be participating in the seminar in their personal capacity. Member State delegations wishing to nominate experts and participants to the event are requested to do so by 02 May 2016. Specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and academia wishing to participate are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by the same date. To ensure participation, registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link: [International Seminar on Oceans Economy and Trade: Sustainable Fisheries, Transport and Tourism](#).

## **Logistics**

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 the E Building 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 enquiries should be addressed to Mr. David Vivas Eugui from the UNCTAD secretariat ([david.vivas@unctad.org](mailto:david.vivas@unctad.org)).

Other enquiries from the Commonwealth and the IOI members should be addressed to Ms. Jane Keane ([j.keane@commonwealth.int](mailto:j.keane@commonwealth.int)) and Mr. Awni Behnam ([awnialex@behnam.ch](mailto:awnialex@behnam.ch)), respectively.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

19 April 2016