



SUC/MISC/2017/9
(17/121ams)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Geneva, 12–13 October 2017

The ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held from 12 to 13 October 2017 in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 12 October.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The topic and terms of reference relating to the ninth session of the meeting were decided at the thirty-first special session of the Trade and Development Board. As set out by the Nairobi Maafikiano (paragraphs 38 (o) and 100 (h)), the meeting will discuss commodity markets and assess the trade and development-related implications of commodity dependence on the Sustainable Development Goals, giving due attention to commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries. The meeting will provide a forum for sharing country experiences in dealing with the impacts of declining commodity prices on vulnerable groups and helping commodity-dependent developing countries formulate sustainable and inclusive development strategies to reach the Goals by 2030. The meeting will identify the policies that such countries could pursue to maximize development benefits from commodity production and trade. The meeting will also discuss opportunities and challenges faced by commodity-dependent developing countries with respect to achieving food and energy security, adding value to commodities and improving the management of natural resources.

Participation

Registration should be completed online. To do so, please use the following link before 6 October 2017: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development](#). Nominations and communications concerning representation should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0214; email: meetings@unctad.org.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts by 1 October 2017. Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject and may be selected from government ministries such as those dealing with trade, agriculture and minerals, metals, oil and gas. Experts may also be selected from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives and non-governmental organizations. Experts from international and regional organizations will be invited as resource persons. No limit is set on the number of experts, including from Governments, who may participate in the meeting. Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by 15 August. Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the meeting and non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category that wish to participate as observers are requested to inform the secretariat of the names of their representatives by 1 September.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds, UNCTAD will finance the participation of a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries. Governments requiring funding are therefore invited to explicitly request this in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that there are very limited funds available at this time. The decision as to which experts should receive funding will be based on the following factors: direct involvement and expertise of nominated experts, the principle of equitable geographical and gender representation, and needs of beneficiaries. Any nomination changes will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than 1 September 2017 and should be accompanied by the following items: curriculum vitae, postal and email addresses, and telephone and fax numbers of nominees; and 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.

Background documents and contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/36. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared two background documents for circulation: Commodity dependence and the Sustainable Development Goals (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/37) and Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/38).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (about five pages) related to the issues contained in the provisional agenda and to their country's experience.

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. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E. 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; visitors will therefore be dropped off at the designated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the United Nations compound unless the Security Service grants special clearance.

Further information and contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Officer-in-Charge, Special Unit on Commodities, UNCTAD, Office E-9018, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, commodities@unctad.org, tel: 41 22 917 1648 or 41 22 917 6286.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

4 August 2017