



DIAE/ MISC/2017/2
(17/142gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development Fifth session Geneva, 9–11 October 2017

The fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will be held from 9 to 11 October 2017 in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 October.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The topic for the fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its thirty-first special session. The meeting will form a continuation of the sessions of multi-year expert meetings on related issues held prior to the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The fifth session will take stock of the sustainable development-oriented reform of international investment agreements to date, based on policy instruments previously developed by UNCTAD, particularly the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, the road map for international investment agreement regime reform and the global action menu for investment facilitation (phase 1 of reform). The meeting will then shift attention to phase 2 of international investment agreement regime reform, that is comprehensively modernizing the stock of outdated first-generation treaties. Participants will share best practices and lessons learned, and discuss initiatives and policy tools, including the 10 options presented by UNCTAD for phase 2.

Nominations and participation

Registration should be completed online, through the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable 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 27 September 2017. Nominees, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in the subject areas, and may be selected from governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector or academia. The meeting may be of particular interest to investment-development stakeholders. International and regional organizations are also invited to nominate participants. 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 wishing to participate as observers, are requested to inform the secretariat of the names of their representatives by the same date.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance through the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries. Governments requiring funding are invited to specifically request financing in their letters of nomination. The decision as to which of the nominated experts should receive financing will be based on the direct involvement and expertise of the experts, on the principle of equitable geographical and gender representation and on the needs of beneficiaries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received by 27 September 2017 and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; mailing address; telephone and fax numbers; email address; and name of contact person in the relevant 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.

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/MEM.4/13. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background document entitled "Reform of the international investment agreement regime: Phase 2", which will be circulated as TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/14.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (5–12 pages) related to their studies, findings and/or national or private sector experiences. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

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 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 concerning substantive issues should be addressed to Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Chief, International Investment Agreements Section, Investment Policies Branch, Division on Investment and Enterprise; tel: 41 22 917 5271; email: elisabeth.tuerk@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

13 September 2017