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(17/246ams)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation Second session

Geneva, 19–20 March 2018

The second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation will be held on 19–20 March 2018 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, 19 March.

Background and purpose of the meeting

In line with the terms of reference for the multi-year expert meeting adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its thirty-first special session on 5 April 2017 (TD/B(S-XXXI)/2), the second session will focus on adapting industrial policies to a digital world for economic diversification and structural transformation. It will address the issues underscored in subparagraphs 38 (a), 76 (a) and 76 (b) of the Nairobi Maafikiano.

The multi-year expert meeting will discuss, in particular, how the diffusion of digital technologies shifts traditional boundaries of individual industries and those between industry and services. It will focus on how policymakers can adapt industrial policies that they have pursued to date, in order to harness the potential of the digital world for economic diversification, structural transformation and greater value addition. Finally, it will examine the opportunities offered by South–South and triangular cooperation in this context.

Nomination and participation

Registration should be completed online: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation](#).

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts by **20 February 2018**. Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in economic development. The meeting may also be of interest to experts from research institutions, civil society and the private sector, focusing on inclusive development and, in particular, industrial policies in a digital world. 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 the same date. 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 **2 March 2018**.

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.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funds, UNCTAD may 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. 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 as new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than 20 February 2018 and should be accompanied by the following items: (a) curriculum vitae; (b) postal and email addresses, and (c) telephone and fax numbers of nominees; and (d) 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.8/4. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note entitled "Adapting industrial policies to a digital world for economic diversification and structural transformation" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.8/5).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (5–12 pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda, which will be available on the UNCTAD website. These papers will be made available to the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be sent by 2 March 2018 to the coordinator in the UNCTAD secretariat whose contact details are provided below.

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 the coordinator in the substantive division, tel: +41 22 917 5902, 41 22 917 0389; email: joerg.mayer@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

18 January 2018