



DITC/TNCD/MISC/2017/2
(17/78gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, fifth session

Geneva, Switzerland, 18–20 July 2017

The fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will be held from 18 to 20 July 2017 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations. It will commence at 10 a.m.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The importance of a services economy and trade for development is recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting's objective is to enhance understanding of the potential of services, infrastructure services, servicification and a services-led digital economy for economic transformation and development. It aims to identify best-fit, coherent and comprehensive services policies, regulatory and institutional approaches and regional and multilateral trade negotiation and cooperation strategies, including on services trade facilitation and trade finance, which enable the development potential of services. This session will consider the policy and regulatory frameworks needed to promote productivity and export capacity conducive to structural transformation in support of the inclusive and sustainable development of developing countries.

Services trade has a multidimensional importance. It is more dynamic and resilient than trade in goods and promotes gender equality and employment creation. Services create linkages throughout production processes, allowing for different activities to interact. In addition, services provide inputs and raise productivity and export capacity, including of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Services can thus change the economic structure to support diversification, value chain participation, upgrading and sustainable development. Lessons may be learned from country experiences, including on addressing domestic supply-side constraints and coherence across several policy areas and between these and trade liberalization. The meeting provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and for facilitating an exchange of views and lessons learned between policymakers, trade negotiators and regulators.

Participation

Registration should be completed online: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services 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; e-mail: meetings@unctad.org.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts by 27 June 2017. Experts, who will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities, are expected to have proven expertise in policymaking, regulation and trade negotiations on services, particularly infrastructure services. The meeting may also be of interest to experts from research institutions, civil society and the private sector focusing on services policies and regulations and their linkages with the rest of the economy. 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 31 May 2017.

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 27 June 2017.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance by the Trust Fund for Financing the Participation of Experts may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. 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 representation and on the needs of beneficiaries, in particular the least developed countries. Changes in the experts nominated will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for financing should be received by 31 May 2017 and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; mailing address; telephone and fax numbers; e-mail 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, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/13. In order to facilitate discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document, which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/14. Documents will be made available on the UNCTAD website.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (5–12 pages) related to the issues contained in the provisional agenda. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be sent in advance to the contact 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 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 Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, tel: 41 22 917 5640; fax: 41 22 917 0044; e-mail: myem_services@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD
19 May 2017