



DTL/TLB/MISC/2018/3
(18/165gd)

NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation Sixth session

Geneva, 21–23 November 2018

The sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be held from 21 to 23 November 2018 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 November.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The fifth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting considered the linkages between trade logistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Following up on the discussions at the fifth session, the sixth session will investigate in greater detail how the freight transport sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Discussions will focus on the role of maritime transport – the backbone of international trade and globalization. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade carried by sea and with shipping and ports forming an integral part of any door-to-door transport solution, the potential of maritime transport to support more sustainable economies and societies cannot be overemphasized.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss developments related to sustainability in maritime transport; recent UNCTAD work aimed at assisting developing countries to build their capacities in the field of sustainable freight transport; and opportunities and challenges that may be associated with new and rapidly evolving technological developments.

Nomination and participation

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the session, through the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation](#). 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; emails: meetings@unctad.org and ts@unctad.org.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in the areas of transport, infrastructure and services, including sustainable freight transport, environmental issues, corporate social responsibility and finance, and related information and communications technologies, no later than 7 November 2018. Experts, 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. 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 register 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 31 October 2018 and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; postal and email addresses; telephone and fax numbers; 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.I/MEM.7/16. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background document entitled "Sustainable freight transport in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The role of maritime transport", which will be circulated as TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/17.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (5–12 pages) related to their studies, findings and/or national experiences. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted by 31 October 2018 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 enquiries concerning substantive issues should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division, Ms. Frida Youssef; fax: 41 22 917 0050; email: ts@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

1 October 2018