



DITC/MISC/2019/6  
(08/20/cc)

## NOTIFICATION

### **Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Twelfth session**

**Geneva, 1–2 April 2020**

The twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held on 1 and 2 April 2020 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 1 April.

#### **Background and purpose of the meeting**

The topics for this session were approved by the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-fifth session, part II, on 4 October 2018. The Nairobi Maafikiano (paragraph 30) states: “Greater transparency is needed in commodities markets, in both source and destination countries, and this should include implementing methods to strengthen transparency and capacity in tax administration systems. The rich resource endowment of the world’s poorest countries, combined with massive capital flight from many commodity-dependent developing countries, highlights the need for a comprehensive assessment of the exploitation and marketing of primary commodities in both source and destination countries.”

In this regard, the meeting will provide a forum for sharing national experiences in addressing the issue of transparency in commodities markets, in both source and destination countries. Stronger transparency along commodities value chains is expected to improve the governance of the commodity sector and foster accountability as well as the sustainable management of commodity revenue. The meeting will identify policies that commodity-dependent developing countries may pursue to maximize development benefits from commodity production and trade.

#### **Participation**

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Representatives of other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Experts will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities and are expected to have proven expertise in the subject matter. They may be selected from government ministries such as those dealing with trade, industry, agriculture, minerals and metals, oil and gas, and may also be selected from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives and non-governmental organizations.

Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by 15 February 2020.

Online registration is mandatory at [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development](#) for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Early registration is advisable, so that timely approval may be received for the issuance of a badge to enter the Palais des Nations. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission in Geneva will suffice. All inquiries regarding

registration should be sent to the Intergovernmental Support Service, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: [meetings@unctad.org](mailto:meetings@unctad.org)

### **Financial assistance**

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance may be granted to a limited number of officially nominated experts from developing countries. Governments requiring funding are invited to explicitly request financing in their letters of nomination. It should be understood that there are limited funds available. The decision as to which 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 nominations will be considered new nominations. Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than 15 February 2020 and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; mailing and email address; telephone and fax numbers; and name of contact person in the relevant permanent mission in Geneva. Once the list of experts who will 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.2/48. To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared two background notes titled "Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/50) and "Greater transparency in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/49).

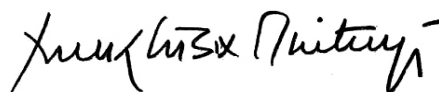
Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (of about five pages) related to one or more of the issues in the provisional agenda and to their national experiences. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

### **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 other enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Chief, Commodity Research and Analysis Section, Commodities Branch, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 1648 or 41 22 917 6286; email: [commodities@unctad.org](mailto:commodities@unctad.org)



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13 January 2020