



UNCTAD/DITC/COM/MISC/2022/1
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NOTIFICATION
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
Thirteenth session
Geneva, 10–12 October 2022

The thirteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held with physical and remote participation from 10 to 12 October 2022, in Room XVII of the Palais des Nations. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 10 October.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The Accra Accord, in paragraph 208, gave a mandate to the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD to establish a multi-year expert meeting on commodities. The mandate was reaffirmed in paragraph 17 of the Doha Mandate, which extended it to 2016, and in paragraph 100 (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which extended it to 2020. The mandate has been further extended in line with paragraphs 123 and 127 (m) and (kk) of the Bridgetown Covenant.

In this regard, the meeting will provide a forum for sharing national experiences on pathways to economic diversification. The UNCTAD Commodities Branch has reviewed issues related to diversification in commodity-dependent developing countries and net food-importing developing countries. The urgent need for diversification is highlighted in the context of recent crises, including the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis. Commodity dependence is associated with a range of negative impacts and heightened risks; diversification can not only reduce volatility emanating from international commodity markets but also act as a driver of growth and development. Successful examples of diversification show that strong political leadership is required to escape the “commodity dependence trap”. In this regard, a range of broad-based enabling conditions and targeted policy measures are discussed in the background note prepared by the secretariat. In addition, strategies need to be tailored to country-specific conditions; and regional integration and international cooperation can help remove obstacles to diversification and value upgrading. Commodity-dependent developing countries benefiting from a recent period of high commodity prices could use the opportunity to promote diversification and value upgrading and thereby reduce commodity dependence in future. Resilience in net food-importing developing countries could be strengthened through the diversification of food import sources, including through regional trade and the promotion of the productivity and diversity of domestic food production and by building food stocks to absorb short-term shocks.

Participation

This session is open to all member States of UNCTAD. 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 and oil and gas and may also be selected from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives, and non-governmental organizations.

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Please register for this session at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000802/>. 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.

Further inquiries regarding registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and/or commodities@unctad.org

Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by 1 September 2022 at commodities@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 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 no later than 2 September 2022 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 written contributions

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/52. In order to facilitate the discussion, the secretariat has prepared two background notes titled "Pathways to economic diversification in commodity-dependent developing countries" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/53) and "Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/54).

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit to the meeting brief papers (of about five pages) related to one or more of the issues contained in the provisional agenda and to the experiences of their countries.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation, in room XVII of the Palais des Nations, and remote participation, through a simultaneous interpretation platform in the six official languages of the United Nations. A link to the formal virtual meeting will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges from 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. 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 with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Contact details

All other enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Janvier Nkurunziza, Officer-in-Charge, Commodities Branch, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 6286; email: commodities@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
25 July 2022