



UNCTAD/DTL/MISC/2023/4
(23/64/cc)

NOTIFICATION

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

Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation

Geneva, 17–19 July 2023

The tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be held from 17 to 19 July 2023 in room XVIII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The session will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, 17 July 2023. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format (in-person and online participation).

Background and purpose of the meeting

Trade facilitation reforms have been advancing considerably in recent years, in particular with the entry into force of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization in 2017 and the inclusion of dedicated trade facilitation provisions in many regional trade agreements. The implementation of trade facilitation reforms is challenging, as evidenced by experiences in implementing the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. In particular, developing countries and vulnerable economies, such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, are required to address many trade facilitation implementation issues at the same time, and often embark on trade facilitation reforms from a less advanced starting point, thus facing the need for knowledge acquisition and the need to make policy and implementation decisions, as well as funding requirements related to all issues, in a relatively short time frame.

The tenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation provides an opportunity to reflect on the key issues at stake, review good practices, provide recommendations on the best way forward, identify priority action areas, in particular for the most vulnerable group of countries, among these the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and define the role of relevant stakeholders, including from government, industry, the public and private sectors, development partners and financial institutions.

Nomination and participation

Online registration is mandatory. To register, please use 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 Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; emails: meetings@unctad.org and tfs@unctad.org.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in the relevant fields by **30 June 2023**. 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 that wish to participate in the meeting, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general category and those in the special category that wish 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 **10 May 2023** 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.7/28. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background note titled "Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation", which will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/29. Further information about related work by the secretariat is available at <https://unctad.org/tt>.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief papers (maximum 10 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 **30 June 2023** to the contacts 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 coordinators in the substantive division, Mr. Poul Hansen and Ms. Veronica Rivera; tel: 41 22 917 5572; email: tfs@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspar
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

17 April 2023