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NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Fourteenth session Geneva, 9–11 October 2023

The fourteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held with physical participation from 9 to 11 October 2023, in Room XXVI of the Palais des Nations. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 October 2023.

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.

The fourteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting provides a platform for sharing national experiences of successful strategies and policies implemented at the national, regional and international levels to effectively manage commodity price volatility. Experts will assess the links between commodity price volatility and key macroeconomic indicators in commodity-dependent developing countries and the links between commodity price volatility and food security in net food-importing countries; and will discuss market and technology-based instruments that can help manage price risks. Experts will identify and review successful examples of managing risks associated with commodity price volatility in developing countries and draw lessons from the examples. Participants are expected to assess existing challenges in commodity-dependent developing countries concerning access risk management tools and to identify ways to address such challenges. Finally, experts will identify policies at both the domestic and international levels for reducing the impact of price volatility on commodity-dependent developing countries and vulnerable groups and thereby safeguarding the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals from risks related to commodity price volatility.

Experts and participants will make recommendations on successful risk management strategies and policies implemented at the national, regional, and international levels. In addition, collaborations on research projects may be discussed, to deepen various aspects of such successful strategies and policies.

The meeting will consist of six sessions over three days, as follows: day 1, general overview of commodity market trends and prospects; day 2, discussion of risk management strategies and policies implemented at the national, regional and international levels to effectively manage commodity price volatility in commodity-dependent developing countries; day 3, presentation of two UNCTAD publications, namely *Commodities and Development Report 2023* and *Commodities at a Glance: Special Issue on Access to Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa*.

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 [here](#). 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 31 August 2023 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 **31 August 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 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.2/56. In order to facilitate discussion, the secretariat has prepared two background notes titled "Managing commodity price volatility in commodity-dependent developing countries" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/57) and "Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/58).

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. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation, in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations. The secretariat will provide remote connections that will allow for external monitoring.

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. Clovis Freire, Commodities Branch, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 6286; email: commodities@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspar
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

23 June 2023