



NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development Fifteenth session

14 to 16 October 2024
Room XVII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva

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The fifteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held from 14 to 16 October 2024, in Room XVII of the Palais des Nations. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 14 October.

Background, structure 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 fifteenth 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 implement structural transformation through domestic value addition in commodity-producing developing countries. Experts will discuss the strategic shift needed for commodity-producing developing countries to transition from exporting raw materials to processing and manufacturing higher value added products domestically, within the context of a just energy transition. This approach aims to diversify economies, create jobs and boost national income, thereby reducing commodity reliance and promoting resilience and sustainability. Key enablers include the following: trade and industrial policy for economic diversification; reliable infrastructure (energy, transport, technology and research and development); access to affordable financing; consistent legal and regulatory frameworks; skilled workforce and environmental sustainability. Experts will assess the challenges faced in commodity-dependent countries in enhancing the key enablers, achieving structural transformation, strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring good governance and support services. Finally, experts will identify the policy actions required to address these challenges by all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and local communities, at the national, regional and international levels. The report of the meeting will include the successful structural transformation strategies and policies implemented at the national, regional, and international levels discussed by the experts. Collaborative research projects may also be discussed, aimed at deepening various aspects of such successful strategies and policies.

The meeting will consist of six panel discussions over three days, covering the following: general overview of commodity market trends and prospects; exploration of the theme of “Structural transformation through domestic value addition in commodity-producing developing

countries”; and examination of the management of price volatility of commodities such as critical energy transition minerals. Each day will be dedicated to a particular commodity category, recognizing their distinct roles in global trade and economics, as follows: food and agricultural commodities; minerals, ores and metals, including energy transition minerals; and energy commodities such as crude oil, natural gas, coal and renewable energy. This approach enables focused analysis and policy formulation suited to each category’s unique economic impacts, technological dependencies and environmental considerations; and it facilitates discussion on commodities global markets and related policy by addressing specific challenges and opportunities in these sectors.

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/1005397>.

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 30 August 2024 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 30 August 2024 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.2/60. In order to facilitate discussion, the secretariat has prepared two background notes titled “Structural transformation through domestic value addition

in commodity-producing developing countries” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/61) and “Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/62).

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 XVII of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the meeting in person will be able to listen to the live audio stream in the six official languages of the United Nations. The link to listen live 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 scan their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva. As part of the new system at the United Nations Office at Geneva, participants will receive a digital badge consisting of their photo, a quick response (QR) code and the name and date of the meeting. The digital badge will be sent to each participant by email once they have been accredited by the meeting organizer and should be downloaded to a mobile telephone or other mobile device. Participants may also print the digital badge in order to use the QR code. 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 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

17 July 2024