



NOTIFICATION

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

Wednesday to Friday, 23–25 October 2024, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., 3–6 p.m.
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

DTL/MISC/2024/13
(cc/24/155)

The eleventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be held from 23 to 25 October 2024 in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 October 2024.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Maritime transport and logistics are currently at a turning point amid a fast-evolving operating landscape. Lying at the heart of international freight transportation systems that link supply chains and deliver globalized trade, the sector continues to navigate the post-COVID-19 pandemic world, while being increasingly shaken by disruption. More than ever, the sector needs to respond and adapt to disruption and volatility driven by a confluence of factors. In addition to heightened geopolitical risks and climate-induced factors, the sector needs to address and navigate macroeconomic uncertainty, inward-looking policies and protectionist measures, shifts in supply-chain design and globalization patterns and new consumption and spending habits amid growing electronic commerce. Maritime transport and logistics also need to integrate risk assessment and vulnerability reduction criteria, as well as take up digitalization and data driven business models. Furthermore, as the sector is under pressure to shift towards to a low and zero carbon path, it needs to accelerate its energy transition and adopt green technologies and cleaner alternative fuels.

In this context and against a backdrop of more frequent disruptions culminating in interconnected crises, the eleventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will focus on key thematic areas relevant to advancing sustainability, low-carbon and resilient maritime transport and trade in a time of polycrisis, while taking into account the outcome of relevant global key policy processes, including the Global Supply Chain Forum convened by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of Barbados, in Bridgetown, on 21–24 May 2024.

Bearing in mind ongoing UN Trade and Development work supporting the sustainability and resilience-building agenda in freight transport and logistics, the eleventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting will provide an opportunity to share experience and good practices and provide recommendations on the best way forward, and to identify priority actions to support maritime transport and logistics navigate disruptions, while building resilience and advancing the



sustainability agenda, with a particular focus on developing countries, small island developing States, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

Nomination and participation

Member States are requested to nominate experts in the relevant fields by **23 September 2024**. 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.

Online registration is mandatory. To register, please use the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation, eleventh session](#).

Nominations and communications concerning representation should be sent to the UN Trade and Development secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; emails: meetings@unctad.org and transport.section@unctad.org.

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 **13 September 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 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.7/31. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background note titled "Maritime transport in times of polycrisis", which will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/32. Further information about related work by the secretariat is available at [the UN Trade and Development website](#), and [Transport Infrastructure and Services website](#).

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 **04 October 2024** to the contact provided below.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation, in room XXVI 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 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, Ms. Frida Youssef, tel.: +41 (0)22 917 5022; email: transport.section@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspar
Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development

6 August 2024