



NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development Eleventh session

30 September–2 October 2024
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

DIAE/MISC/2024/4
(gd/24/156)

The eleventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will be held on 30 September and 1 October 2024 in room XXVI, starting at 10 a.m., Monday, 30 September 2024.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The topic for the eleventh session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting, “Business development services for conducive business ecosystems in support of sustainable development”, was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its seventy-fourth executive session.

Microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of economies, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of all businesses worldwide and providing over two thirds of employment. However, their failure rate is high, and their productivity tends to be low. In order for them to reach their full potential and optimize their contribution to economic competitiveness and sustainable, inclusive development, effective business development services are crucial components of the business ecosystem.

Responding to the renewed call made by member States at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (TD/541/Add.2, paragraph 127 (r)) and in General Assembly resolution 77/160 on entrepreneurship for sustainable development, experts will take stock of emerging trends in the provision of business development services and identify policies enabling their effective development. They will discuss the need for adaptation of business development services to novel entrepreneurial challenges in view of the dual transitions – the acceleration of digitalization and new technologies on the one hand and the greening of businesses on the other – and the emergence of new critical skills. The report of the meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

To inform the discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background note titled “Business development services for conducive business ecosystems in support of sustainable development” (TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/31).



Nominations and registration

Member States of UN Trade and Development are requested to nominate experts in the relevant fields by 6 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 and 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 and should be completed through the following link: [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity- building and Sustainable Development](#). 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; email: meetings@unctad.org and/or empretec@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 **15 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 contributed papers

The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/30. Meeting documentation will be made available on the [UN Trade and Development 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 **15 September 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 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.

Further information and contact detail

All enquiries concerning substantive issues should be addressed to the coordinator in the substantive division Ms. Arlette Verploegh (arlette.verploegh@un.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebeca Grynspan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development

23 July 2024