



NOTIFICATION

TDB side event:

The future of non-reciprocal trade preferences

18 September 2024, 1.30–2.45 p.m.
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

DITC/Misc/2024/13
(24/169gd)

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is pleased to invite permanent missions of member States in Geneva to a Trade and Development Board side event titled “The future of non-reciprocal trade preferences”. The in-person event will be held on 18 September 2024 from 1.30 to 2.45 p.m. in room XXIII of the Palais des Nations and will be conducted in English without interpretation.

Background and purpose of the event

This event will address how the effectiveness of preferential tariffs, as a tool with which to foster exports, has diminished as most-favoured nation tariffs have fallen, free trade agreements have proliferated and non-tariff measures have become more prevalent. At the same time, the rapidly evolving international trade landscape and technological development have changed the sources of comparative advantages. Tariff preferences alone are not sufficient in order to attract foreign direct investment that can drive technology transfer to enhance domestic productive capacity. Considering these trends and the continuing need of developing countries for enhanced market access, it is timely to reflect upon the future of trade preferences.

The event aims to enhance understanding among UNCTAD member States of the state of non-reciprocal tariff preferences and the need for constructive debate on how to modernize such preferences in order to help vulnerable developing countries address market access challenges.

Panel discussions will address whether the current structure of non-reciprocal tariff preferences increase export competitiveness and diversification among beneficiary countries and will elaborate on possible alternative approaches to trade preferences in order for beneficiary countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development goals through trade.

Participation

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting.

Please register for the side event at [the future of non-reciprocal trade preferences](#). Further information can be accessed [here](#).

Kindly note that the invitation letter for the side event should be uploaded during the online registration process.

Any inquiries regarding registration should be addressed to meetings-unctad@un.org.



Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room XXIII of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the meeting in person will be able to listen to the live audio stream. The link to listen live will be sent to registered participants of the side event and the seventy-first session of the Trade and Development Board, 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. Taisuke Ito, Trading Systems, Services and Creative Economy Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 4893; email: Taisuke.Ito@unctad.org.

(signed)

Luz Maria de la Mora Sanchez

Director

Division on International Trade and Commodities

16 September 2024