



Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development Twelfth session

DITC/MISC/2026/5
(26/31gd)

15 and 16 April 2026, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Room Tempus, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, focused on “Servicification for economic diversification”, will be held on 15 and 16 April 2026. The session will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 April, in room Tempus of the Palais des Nations.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Member States, at the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, noted the growing significance of services as a new frontier for structural transformation, particularly for developing countries seeking to diversify their economies. The substantive topic for the twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, on servicification for economic diversification, was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 15 December 2025 (see also TD/B/EX(78)/2).

This session will focus on the role of trade in services in supporting economic diversification. It will provide an opportunity, through a series of panel discussions, for experts and policymakers to examine the role of servicification in advancing economic transformation and diversification; consider how digitalization and trade policy can shape and enhance this potential; and exchange experiences, views and good practices. The report of the meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission for its consideration. In response to requests from member States at previous sessions, a dedicated discussion at this session will address data needs and gaps related to servicification, exploring how improved measurement and data availability can better inform policymaking, particularly trade policy, and support developing economies in leveraging servicification for economic diversification and sustainable development.

Participation

This session is open to all member States of UN Trade and Development. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia, research institutions and the private sector, may participate as observers. Member States are invited to nominate experts from the public and/or private sectors. Nominated experts are encouraged to participate in all sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development to ensure continuity. Each State is encouraged to nominate up to five experts to participate.

Online registration, at [Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development, twelfth session](#), is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required for inclusion in the list of participants. Early registration is advisable so that timely approval may be received for the issuance of a ground pass to the Palais des Nations. 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 UN Trade and Development secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and/or TSCE@un.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 explicitly request financing in their letters of nomination. The decision as to which 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 nominations will be considered new nominations.

Nominations with requests for funding should be received no later than **16 March 2026** and should be accompanied by the following information about each nominee: curriculum vitae; mailing and email address; telephone number; and name of contact person in the relevant permanent mission in Geneva. Once the list of experts who will 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 annotated provisional agenda (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/34) and a background note prepared by the secretariat, entitled "Servicification for economic diversification" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/35), will be made available on the UN Trade and Development website.

Experts are encouraged to submit brief papers (maximum 12 pages) on the topics of the meeting, including examples of good practices of servicification for economic diversification. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted no later than **20 March 2026** to the secretariat, email: TSCE@un.org.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room Tempus 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 room Tempus 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 details

All other enquiries should be addressed to the Division on International Trade and Commodities, tel.: 41 22 917 6313; email: TSCE@un.org.



Rebeca Grynspar

Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development
25 February 2026