



# NOTIFICATION

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

### Global maritime transport: Staying the course in turbulent waters

Monday and Tuesday, 13 and 14 April 2026, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., 3–6 p.m.  
Room Tempus, Palais des Nations, Geneva

DTL/TLB/MISC/2026/1  
(26/31gd)

The twelfth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will be held on 13 and 14 April 2026 in room Tempus of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, 13 April 2026.

#### Background and purpose of the meeting

Global supply chain disruptions have become more frequent and complex, with shocks converging and compounding, to create unprecedented volatility. Maritime transport, which carries over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade by volume and underpins global supply chains, has been particularly affected. Since 2020, shipping, ports and hinterland connections have weathered overlapping disruptions linked to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its legacies, geopolitical tensions and climate-related constraints. Recent chokepoint disruptions in the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, security risks in the Black Sea and drought-induced draught limits in the Panama Canal have reshaped routes and schedules. Beginning in 2025, shifts in trade policy have added regulatory uncertainty and operational complexity. These pressures are transmitted across supply chains, with landlocked developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States often the most affected due to capacity constraints, connectivity gaps, infrastructure deficits and higher transport costs.

Informed by considerations and priorities in transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation, as reflected in the Geneva Consensus, in particular, paras. 80.35–80.40 and 80.43, and drawing on insights from *Review of Maritime Transport 2025: Staying the Course in Turbulent Waters*, discussions at the twelfth session will explore key developments affecting global maritime transport and trade and provide expert insights into challenges and opportunities for the maritime transport industry and its stakeholders, as well as policymakers.

The discussions are expected to inform the related UNCTAD programme of work, including the second UNCTAD Global Supply Chain Forum, to be held in late 2026, in collaboration with the Saudi Ports Authority, and help identify thematic priorities and activities for enhanced collaborative action, to advance sustainable, resilient and inclusive transport and trade facilitation as part of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035, with a focus on key issues of relevance to developing countries (see A/RES/78/148 and A/RES/80/132).

Bearing in mind ongoing UNCTAD work supporting the sustainability and resilience-building agenda in transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation, the twelfth 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, with a particular focus on developing countries, landlocked developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States.



## Nomination and participation

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to nominate experts in the relevant fields by **6 April 2026**. 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, twelfth session](#).

Nominations and communications concerning representation should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; emails: [meetings@unctad.org](mailto:meetings@unctad.org) and [trade.logistics@unctad.org](mailto:trade.logistics@unctad.org).

## 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.7/34. In order to facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a background note titled "Global maritime transport: Staying the course in turbulent waters", which will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/35. Further information about related work by the secretariat is available on the [UNCTAD 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 **6 April 2026** to Wendy Juan ([wendy.juan@unctad.org](mailto:wendy.juan@unctad.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 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 room Tempus. 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 coordinator in the substantive division, Ms. Regina Asariotis, Chief, a.i., Trade Logistics Branch, tel.: 41 22 917 5641; email: [trade.logistics@unctad.org](mailto:trade.logistics@unctad.org) (cc [wendy.juan@unctad.org](mailto:wendy.juan@unctad.org)).



**Rebeca Grynspar**  
Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development  
20 February 2026