



NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development **Seventeenth session**

22–23 October 2026
Council Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

UNCTAD/DITC/MISC/2026/18
(26/167GD)

The seventeenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be held on 22 and 23 October 2026 in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations. The session will open on Thursday, 22 October, at 10 a.m.

Background, structure and purpose of the meeting

The Accra Accord, in paragraph 208, gave a mandate to the Trade and Development Board of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to establish a multi-year expert meeting on commodities. The mandate was reaffirmed in paragraph 17 of the Doha Mandate, which extended it to 2016, and in paragraph 100 (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which extended it to 2020. The mandate has been further extended in line with paragraphs 123 and 127 (m) and (kk) of the Bridgetown Covenant.

The seventeenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting provides a platform for policymakers, experts and other stakeholders to examine the drivers, recent evolution and possible impacts of commodity price volatility; and to share experiences of strategies and policies in managing its effects in developing countries. Discussions will focus on recent developments in agricultural, mineral and energy-related commodity markets. Experts will assess the policy implications of volatility, particularly in commodity-dependent developing countries. Experts will also examine policy approaches to addressing key challenges arising from commodity price volatility, including preserving macroeconomic stability, protecting energy and food security and livelihoods, reducing long-term structural vulnerability and strengthening resilience through international trade and cooperation. Finally, experts will identify and share experiences with regard to effective policy instruments and responses, including risk-management tools, stabilization mechanisms, diversification strategies and trade-related policies, to reduce the domestic impact of volatility in developing countries. The role of international trade is a key element in the national policy toolbox. The report of the meeting will include recommendations and examples of successful policies and strategies implemented at the national, regional and international levels, based on the discussions and contributions from experts and other participants.

The session will consist of four panel discussions over two days, covering the following: general overview of commodity market trends and prospects; and exploration of the theme of “Navigating commodity price volatility”. Each day will be dedicated to a particular commodity category, recognizing their distinct roles in global trade and economics, as follows: food and agricultural commodities on the first day; and extractive commodities, including energy commodities, minerals, ores and metals, on the second day. This approach enables focused analysis and policy formulation suited to each category’s unique economic impacts, technological dependencies and environmental considerations.



Participation

This session is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia and the private sector, may participate as observers. Experts will participate in the meeting in their personal capacities and are expected to have proven expertise in the subject matter. They may be selected from government ministries, such as those dealing with trade, industry, agriculture, minerals and metals and oil and gas; and may also be selected from the private sector, including representatives of producer associations or cooperatives, and non-governmental organizations.

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Please register for this session at <https://indico.un.org/event/1022709/>.

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 UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and/or commodities@unctad.org.

Experts wishing to participate as panellists should contact the UNCTAD secretariat by 15 September 2026 at commodities@unctad.org.

Financial assistance

Depending on the availability of funding, financial assistance 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. It should be understood that there are limited funds available. 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 no later than 10 September 2026 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 written contributions

The provisional agenda for the session, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/67. In order to facilitate discussion, the secretariat has prepared one background note titled "Navigating commodity price volatility" (TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/68).

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (maximum 10 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting, related to their studies, findings and/or national experiences. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted by 30 September 2026 to the contact provided below.

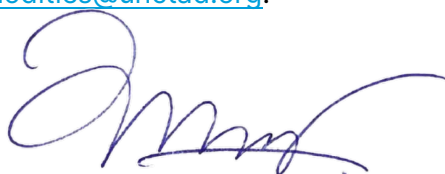
Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in the Council Chamber 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.

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. Participants are also requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. 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. 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 C of the Palais. 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 Ms. Luz María de la Mora, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel.: 41 22 917 6286; email: commodities@unctad.org.



Pedro Manuel Moreño
Acting Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development
5 August 2026