



## **UNCTAD briefing for Ambassadors of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)**

**Virtual meeting, 7 December 2020  
10:00-12:00 hours EST / 16:00 – 18:00 hours CET**

### **Concept note**

The briefing will be organized by UNCTAD's Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes and will bring together the UN Ambassadors of LLDCs based in New York and Geneva.

The main objectives of the briefing are to inform LLDC Ambassadors about:

- (i) The forthcoming UNCTAD 15 Conference to be held in Barbados in 2021 and substantive (broad) issues of interest to LLDCs;
- (ii) UNCTAD's new Productive Capacities Index (PCI), which will provide LLDCs with a new tool to benchmark their development performance, and
- (iii) UNCTAD's ongoing activities in support of LLDCs.

#### **1. LLDCs' key priorities for the UNCTAD 15 Ministerial Conference**

The 15th Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD will be held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25-30 April 2021. The G77 and China are working on key areas of interest for developing countries and the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference is being prepared. Formal negotiations have not started yet but are expected to commence soon. UNCTAD 15 will be the first global gathering to examine development challenges and opportunities, as well as set priorities for development policy for the post-COVID-19 environment.

This briefing will provide opportunities for member States to exchange views on broader issues of interest for LLDCs in the context of the Conference. There will be interactive discussions on key issues and priorities for LLDCs.

#### **2. UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index**

UNCTAD will provide an overview of its forthcoming Productive Capacities Index, and its possible uses for LLDC policymakers. The new index aims to operationalize the concept of productive capacities by identifying measurable benchmarks for policymakers. The index is composed of eight components: Natural capital, Human capital, ICT, Transport, Structural

transformation, Private sector, Institutions, and Energy. Initial results indicate that, on average, LLDCs lag behind other developing countries in all components of productive capacities, except natural capital. The briefing will present these and other findings, as well as share insights into the use of the PCI in guiding development policies.

### 3. Other UNCTAD activities in support of LLDCs

Beyond PCI, UNCTAD will provide a brief overview of its other technical assistance and capacity-building activities in support of LLDCs, including in the areas of transport and trade facilitation, export diversification and structural transformation. This will allow for an exchange of views on new and additional activities of interest to the LLDC Group.

Beyond the briefings by the UNCTAD Secretariat, the meeting will also allow for an exchange of views with members of the Group on how UNCTAD can better support the needs of LLDCs.