

9-10 December 2025
Palais des Nations, Room III (A-building)
Geneva, Switzerland (CEST)

Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development (Sixteenth session)

Extractives Commodities Day

Wednesday 10 December 2025, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Commodity dependence remains one of the most persistent development challenges for developing countries. Today, 95 developing countries, representing over two-thirds of the developing world, derive more than 60 per cent of their merchandise export revenues from commodities. This reliance exposes economies to price volatility and external shocks, undermining macroeconomic stability and fiscal resilience. Price collapses often lead to revenue shortfalls, debt accumulation, and cuts in essential public investment, with severe human consequences. Indeed, 29 of the 32 countries with the lowest Human Development Index scores are commodity-dependent, underscoring the close link between resource reliance and limited structural transformation. Vulnerabilities are particularly acute among least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing States (SIDS).

At the same time, the global energy transition is reshaping commodity markets. Demand for critical energy transition minerals (CETMs) such as lithium, cobalt, copper, and rare earths is rising sharply, creating both opportunities and risks for commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDCs). While the increasing demand for these resources can boost export growth, it may also entrench commodity dependence.

Ultimately, the way to address commodity dependence is through promoting economic diversification. Recent experience shows that diversification is achievable but is often limited in scope. While initiatives such as the Zambia–Democratic Republic of Congo battery value chain are emerging, integration into global value chains remains narrow and vulnerable to shocks.

Website: <https://unctad.org/meeting/multi-year-expert-meeting-commodities-and-development-16th-session>

Registration: <https://indico.un.org/event/1013700/>

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The Sixteenth session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting will explore the theme of strategic diversification as central to addressing the structural vulnerabilities of commodity-dependent developing countries to price volatility and external shocks. Strategic diversification involves identifying and nurturing sectors with high growth potential, leveraging local strengths, modern technologies, and global trends. Lessons from successful diversification models highlight the importance of identifying priority sectors for diversification, designing targeted policy instruments to promote these potential new sectors, and enhancing governance to drive this process.

This theme will focus on the "how to do," exploring practical strategies, tools, and governance mechanisms to ensure effective diversification. New data-driven approaches - such as economic complexity and product space analysis - help identify higher-value opportunities based on existing capabilities. The use of these tools, supported by coherent policies and strong institutions, can turn natural wealth into inclusive and sustainable industrial growth. The topic provides a platform for exploring pathways to transform commodity dependence into opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Key Objectives

- Analyze recent price movements and market drivers in energy and mineral sectors.
- Assess vulnerabilities related to price volatility and market concentration.
- Explore strategies for diversification in energy and mineral commodity dependent countries, building economic resilience and sustainable growth amid the global energy transition.





Morning Session (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Theme: Trends in Energy, Minerals, Ores, and Metals

This session will examine latest trends in global commodity markets, focusing on energy commodities and critical minerals essential to the clean energy transition. It will assess how market dynamics, price volatility, and shifting demand patterns affect the development prospects of commodity-dependent developing countries.

Tentative programme

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets: Minerals, ores and metals and energy commodities

Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat

- Mr. Saidali Abdoukarim, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, DITC
Setting the stage: Minerals, ores and metals, and energy commodities

Presentations by experts

- Mr. Adrew Walker, VP LNG Strategy, Cheniere
The global outlook on liquefied natural gas
- Mr. Alexander Bressers, Senior Oil Market Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)
The state and prospects of oil markets
- Mr Guillaume Albasini, Energy and Mining Analyst, Geneva
Price volatility on CETMs
- Mr. Przemyslaw Kowalski, Senior Economist, OECD
OECD's Work on Secure and Resilient Mineral Supply Chains

Interactive debate





Afternoon Session (3 – 6 p.m.)

Theme: Strategies for Diversification in Commodity-Producing Developing Countries

This session will focus on strategies to help CDDCs diversify their economies, reduce dependence on raw commodities, and leverage opportunities in the global energy transition. Drawing on global and regional lessons, it will highlight innovative, data-driven approaches and the enabling policies required for successful transformation.

Key Discussion Themes:

- Structural barriers keeping CDDCs locked into commodity dependence and the role of data-driven analysis (economic complexity, product space tools).
- Pathways for sustainable diversification—downstream value addition, regional value chains, CETM-based industries, and strategies for resilience, low-carbon growth and competitiveness.
- The importance of policy coherence, institutional coordination, and long-term investment planning.
- How partnerships, technology transfer, financing and low carbon tools can accelerate diversification and resilience.

Tentative programme

3 – 5.45 p.m. **Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries: Minerals, ores and metals and energy commodities**

Discussion panel on data driven model for diversification strategies:

Moderated by Ms. Claudine Sigam, Economic Affairs Officers, Extractive Commodities Section, DITC

Introduction by UNCTAD secretariat:

- Mr. Clovis Freire Junior, Chief, Extractive Commodities Section, DITC

Supporting diversification through data-driven analysis: Results of the rapid assessment project on value addition in Southern Africa

- Mr. Erasmus Shivolo, Deputy Executive Director, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Republic of Namibia

From data to diversification: Namibia's experience and regional lessons for harnessing critical energy transition minerals





Presentations by experts:

Moderated by Ms. Maria Luz de la Mora, Director,
Division on International Trade and Commodities,
UNCTAD

- H.E. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Beyond oil and gas: Guyana's diversification through carbon markets and low carbon competitiveness

- Ms. Tiguidanke Dabo, Head of Unit, Bureau of Strategy and Development, Ministry of Mines and Geology, Republic of Guinea

Toward a renewed Guinea, from raw exports to and integrated, biodiversity-conscious mining economy

- Mr. Rufaro Nyambuya, Senior Economist, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Republic of Zimbabwe

Leveraging critical minerals for the just energy transition in Zimbabwe

- Mr. Andreas Edele, Senior Trade and Investment Policy Adviser, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Domestic value addition and critical mineral value chains – How effective are industrial, investment and trade policies?

Interactive debate

