

22-23 October 2026**Agriculture and Extractive Commodities:****Navigating commodity price volatility****Palais des Nations, Geneva**

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

Background

Commodity price volatility remains a major challenge for commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDCs), where export earnings, fiscal revenues, and employment often depend heavily on a narrow range of commodities. This volatility is driven by a complex interplay of short-term shocks and long-term structural transformations affecting commodity markets. Global economic and financial conditions influence demand, while geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions, supply-chain disruptions, and extreme weather events can trigger sharp and often unpredictable price swings. At the same time, climate change, technological progress, digitalization, and the global energy and digital transition are reshaping patterns of production, consumption, and trade across agricultural, energy, and mineral commodities. Together, these forces are creating new risks and uncertainties for CDDCs, while also generating opportunities in emerging commodity value chains.

The continuing dependence of many developing countries on commodity imports and exports underscores the importance of building resilience to both short-term shocks and longer-term market transformations. In commodity importing developing countries, commodity price surges can fuel inflation and increase the cost of food, energy, and productive inputs. Conversely, commodity price falls can undermine export earnings, fiscal revenues, and investment flows in commodity-exporting developing countries, with potential implications for economic growth and development. Although the impacts of commodity price volatility differ across countries depending on their type of commodity dependence and economic structure, they can have significant consequences for macroeconomic stability and long-term development prospects. Strengthening resilience therefore requires a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond managing volatility alone. Such a strategy includes economic diversification, value addition, productive capacity development, effective risk-management and stabilization mechanisms, improved market transparency, and investments in resilient infrastructure. International cooperation and well-functioning commodity markets are also essential to support stability, predictability, and sustainable development outcomes.





Against this backdrop, the seventeenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting (MYEM) on commodities and development will examine recent developments and emerging trends in global commodity markets and assess their implications for CDDCs. The meeting will also provide a platform for sharing experiences and exploring policy options to strengthen resilience to commodity price volatility, enhance value addition and structural transformation, and enable CDDCs to seize new opportunities arising from evolving demand dynamics while mitigating associated risks.

Key Objectives

The main objectives of the meeting include the following:

- Analyze recent developments in agricultural, food, energy, and mineral commodity markets with a focus on price volatility, supply disruptions, external shocks and broader economic vulnerabilities.
- Assess the implications of commodity price volatility for CDDCs.
- Explore policy options and practical strategies to mitigate the adverse impacts of commodity price volatility, strengthen economic resilience, and support sustainable development outcomes in CDDCs.

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Links

Website: <https://unctad.org/meeting/multi-year-expert-meeting-commodities-and-development-17th-session>

Background note: [Navigating commodity price volatility](#)

Registration (mandatory): <https://indico.un.org/event/1022709/>