United Nations TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/64

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
29 September 2025

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
Sixteenth session
Geneva, 9–10 December 2025

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets.
4. Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries.
5. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development is reproduced in chapter I above, in accordance with the topic of the multi-year expert meeting approved by the Trade and Development Board at its thirty-sixth special session. The meeting will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 and 10 December 2025. A draft programme is attached in the annex to this document. A more detailed programme will be available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/64	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets

3. Paragraph 208 of the Accra Accord mandated the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to establish a multi-year expert meeting on commodities. The mandate was reaffirmed in paragraph 17 of the Doha Mandate, paragraph 100 (s) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, and paragraphs 123 and 127 of the Bridgetown Covenant.

4. The purpose of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development is to monitor recent trends, major developments and challenges and opportunities in commodity markets, giving due attention to those commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries. Discussions on these topics, which will include presentations by national experts and experts from relevant international organizations and commodity bodies, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society, will serve to inform member States of UNCTAD of important developments in key commodity sectors and markets from a development perspective.

Item 4
Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries

5. The topic selected by member States for the sixteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting is strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries.

6. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a note titled “Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries”. How strategic diversification can help reduce the structural vulnerabilities faced by commodity-dependent developing countries is examined in the note. Using the right policy mix, within a private and public sector complementary framework, countries can transition from reliance on raw commodity exports, to inclusion of more diversified and value added production and trade. Such a transformation has the potential to enhance economic resilience, generate more well-paid and good-quality formal jobs and foster the adoption of technological capabilities. Aligning diversification strategies with global trends, such as renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions, digitalization and circular economy principles, has the potential to further strengthen this transformational path.

7. Past experiences in different countries highlight the importance of horizontal and vertical targeted policy instruments, strong governance frameworks and tailoring diversification and value addition policies to the specific geographic and institutional context. Practical insights are provided into how strategic diversification could help to transform commodity dependence into an engine for sustainable and inclusive development.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/65	Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries

Item 5
Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report on the sixteenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The meeting may wish to authorize the Vice Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Luz María de la Mora

Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities
Officer-in-Charge of Commodities Branch,
UNCTAD
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Tel: +41 22 917 6286
Email: commodities@unctad.org

Annex

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development, sixteenth session: Draft programme

	Tuesday *9 December*	*Wednesday* *10 December*
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Opening plenary Item 1. Election of officers Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Opening statements Statements by member States Item 3. Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets • Agricultural commodities	Item 3 (cont.). Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets • Extractive commodities
3–5.45 p.m.	Item 4. Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries • Agricultural commodities: Trade in agriculture as a tool for development	Item 4 (cont.). Strategic diversification for commodity-dependent developing countries • Extractive commodities: Reducing vulnerabilities through strategic diversification in commodity-dependent developing countries
5.45–6 p.m.	Summary of discussions.	Item 5. Adoption of the report of the meeting. Closing statements.