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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
Seventeenth session
Geneva, 22–23 October 2026

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. Navigating commodity price volatility.
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 of the seventeenth 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 through a silence procedure that concluded on 7 April 2026. The meeting will take place on Thursday and Friday, 22 and 23 October 2026. 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

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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 agricultural and extractive commodity sectors and markets from a development perspective.

Item 4
Navigating commodity price volatility

5. The topic selected by member States for the seventeenth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting is commodity price volatility and its implications for trade and development.

6. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a note titled "Navigating commodity price volatility". The drivers of volatility across agricultural, mineral and energy-related commodity markets are examined and recent episodes of heightened volatility are highlighted. In addition, an analysis is provided of the economic, social and developmental impacts of volatility on agricultural and extractive commodity-dependent developing countries. The following four key policy challenges arising from commodity price volatility are identified: preserving macroeconomic stability; protecting energy and food security and livelihoods; reducing long-term structural vulnerability; and strengthening resilience through international trade and cooperation. A range of policy responses that

countries have adopted to address such challenges is discussed, including risk management instruments, stabilization mechanisms, diversification strategies, productive capacity development and trade-related measures.

Documentation

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Item 5
Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report on the seventeenth 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.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (maximum 10 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting.

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 to Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: commodities@unctad.org.

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Annex

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

	Thursday *22 October*	*Friday* *23 October*
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 (continued). Recent developments, challenges and opportunities in commodity markets • Extractive commodities
3–5.45 p.m.	Item 4. Navigating commodity price volatility • Agricultural commodities	Item 4 (continued). Navigating commodity price volatility • Extractive commodities
5.45–6 p.m.	Summary of discussions	Item 5. Adoption of the report of the meeting Closing statements