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(18/116ams)

NOTIFICATION

Fortieth Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cairo

25 November–6 December 2018

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda, which is designed for countries in the Middle East and North Africa, will be hosted by the Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt. The course will be held from 25 November to 6 December 2018.

The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. Its aims are as follows:

- (a) To enhance understanding of the relationship between these areas and their link to country development strategies;
- (b) To provide participants with knowledge and skills that will prepare them for trade negotiations, as well as to design and implement trade and development policies. These tools are designed to meet the needs and interests of their countries.

The syllabus will draw on the perspective of UNCTAD, its analytical work and lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities, and will be enriched by the competence and expertise of representatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Experts from Egypt will share national experiences in promoting and managing trade, investment, finance and development.

The course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials in ministries and institutions dealing with trade, investment, finance, technology and development issues, who are involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies. Depending on the availability of places, other applicants, such as university academics, may be considered.

The course will be given in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic.

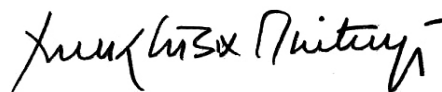
In the interest of efficiency, the application process is divided into two parts. First, UNCTAD member States from countries in the Middle East and North Africa are invited to present, by 25 September 2018, the names and email addresses of qualified candidates to the secretariat through their permanent missions in Geneva. Second, these candidates will be contacted by the secretariat to complete an application online; the application process must be completed by 2 October 2018. It is therefore advisable that this information be submitted as soon as possible. Member States of successful candidates will be notified of the decision of UNCTAD following the selection committee meeting to be held on 9 October 2018.

Member States are encouraged to nominate more than one candidate per country, in which case they may wish to rank the candidates. The selection committee will take this ranking into consideration, provided that the preferred candidate meets the eligibility criteria.

UNCTAD will provide hotel accommodation for all participants, who will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Requests for travel arrangements for selected participants should be made at the time of nomination. Selected participants will be responsible for obtaining adequate travel and medical insurance and a valid visa for travel to Egypt prior to their arrival.

An outline of the course syllabus, which provides a list of topics, learning objectives and questions for applicants to answer (P166.2018.TS.1) and the application guidelines (P166.2018.AG.1) are attached.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Randa Jamal, Project Coordinator, Policy Capacity-Building Section, Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD; tel: 41 22 917 2718; email: randajamal@un.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

23 July 2018

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Course syllabus outline

This outline describes the three course modules. For each module, participants will be expected to gather information on a number of issues before the beginning of the course, in order that they can contribute to discussions by sharing the experiences of their countries.

Module 1: Development, development policies and the role of international trade and finance in a globalized world

Description: This module will highlight topical economic issues at the global level and explore their implications for development strategies. The UNCTAD integrated approach will be used to discuss development challenges, examining interdependencies between different policy areas, including macroeconomic management and international trade and finance, and new views regarding the nature and role of the developmental state in the light of the global economic crisis. The module will also address the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and related policy implications. Opportunities to discuss national and regional experiences on country-specific aspects will help promote the sharing of national experiences from across the region.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will have deepened their understanding of the implications of trade and financial integration for inclusive economic growth, structural change and technological upgrading. They should also understand the key challenges of development policies in aiming to achieve both human and economic development and economic growth. Participants will thus develop their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas at the national, regional and international levels.

Module 2: Harnessing benefits from trade: Changing dynamics in the multilateral trading system, trade logistics, regional trade agreements and the digital economy

Description: This module will highlight the role of trade and technology as enablers of development. It will address best practices and policy norms for harnessing the benefits of trade, including in the evolving digital economy. It will consider the changing dynamics of trade negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and their impact on trade agreements. In particular, trade facilitation and trade in services will be discussed as areas of opportunity for countries in the Middle East and North Africa to benefit from ongoing negotiations and reforms. In addition, the module will introduce participants to transportation, trade logistics and electronic commerce and the digital economy as enablers of international trade and development.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will be cognizant of important factors affecting the design of appropriate national trade policies and development strategies; able to identify and understand key challenges and development opportunities in the international trading system and regional trade agreements; and have learned how to maximize gains from integration into the global economy. Participants will also better understand the role of the regulatory environment, institutional and physical trade infrastructures and trade-supporting services in fostering international trade competitiveness with regard to supporting productive and trading capacities, including transport, trade facilitation and electronic commerce and the digital economy.

Module 3: Enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment, enterprise development, electronic commerce and the digital economy and science, technology and innovation

Description: This module will explain and evaluate the role of foreign direct investment, small and medium-sized enterprise development, electronic commerce and the digital economy and science, technology and innovation in the development process and their place in national development strategies in the context of the globalization of economic activity. These policy areas will be linked with social welfare, economic growth and development.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will be able to identify the links between foreign direct investment and development and describe recent trends in foreign direct investment flows. They will also be able to identify the main development and policy challenges of global value chains and highlight effective investment promotion strategies that include attracting foreign direct investment aimed at maximizing local benefits. This information will be useful in analysing the impact of foreign direct investment on local productive capacity, especially through linkages between multinational enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants will have learned how to unleash entrepreneurship at a national level from a policy perspective. They will have gained an understanding of the following issues: role of science, technology and innovation in growth, economic and social development and environmental sustainability; experiences and challenges of developing economies in stimulating technological upgrading and innovation; and how policymakers can develop a science, technology and innovation system and capabilities through national policies and enhanced local productive capacity. In addition, participants will have deepened their knowledge of electronic commerce and digital economy matters.

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Questions for applicants

All applicants will be contacted by email to complete an online application. Kindly ensure that names and email addresses are sent to the secretariat by 25 September 2018.

The online application must include responses to two of the questions provided below. All applicants must answer question 1. They must then answer either question 2 or question 3.

Please ensure that responses take into account the economic development objectives of the applicant's country. The reply to each question should not exceed 250 words.

Question 1 (compulsory):

How is national development planning undertaken in your country? What are the broad macroeconomic principles and objectives that determine your Government's approach and the choice of policies used? What is the role of economic development and which are the relevant agencies responsible for its implementation? What are the indicators that best measure economic development in your country? What do they show about your country?

Please answer one of the following two questions:

Question 2:

What roles do trade, investment and finance policies play in addressing economic challenges in your country? What domestic and international constraints affect the choice and design of these policies and their implementation? What are their main effects?

or

Question 3:

What roles do technology and/or entrepreneurship and/or trade logistics play in supporting economic development in your country? Are these issues incorporated in your national economic development plans and strategies? If so, how? Give a brief description of the main challenges faced with respect to each of these three issues. If they are not part of your national economic development plans and strategies, explain why.

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Application guidelines

Applicant profile

This course is aimed primarily at mid-level government officials dealing with international economic issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies in one or more fields covered in the course syllabus (outline attached). To be considered for nomination, candidates should meet the following requirements:

- (a) Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, trade law or public administration. A first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted if places in the course are available;
- (b) Have 4–10 years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, an international or regional development organization, a research institute or a university, dealing with trade, investment, finance, technology and development issues and involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies;
- (c) Be in a position to use and disseminate the information and knowledge acquired during the course. It is important that participants remain in relevant positions for a sufficient length of time after completion of the course so that the skills and knowledge gained can be disseminated as widely as possible at their workplace;
- (d) Have a full working knowledge of English, the official language of the course, with proven written and verbal communication skills.

Instructions for submitting applications online

Candidates will be contacted to complete an online application. Applications must be submitted in English by 2 October 2018 and include the following documents:

- (a) Application form;
- (b) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- (c) Letter of motivation stating the following: how the applicant contributes to policy design and implementation in the areas of trade, investment, finance and technology; how the course will contribute to enhancing his or her professional and personal development; and why the applicant feels he or she should be chosen to attend this course;
- (d) Short essay answering question 1 and one of the other two questions in the course syllabus outline relevant to his or her national context (no more than 250 words per question).

Nominations

Nominations should be submitted by 25 September 2018 to UNCTAD through the permanent mission accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva or the World Trade Organization and contain the names and email addresses of the candidates. Nominated candidates will be contacted and asked to complete the online application by 2 October 2018. It is therefore advisable that names and email addresses be communicated as soon as possible to the UNCTAD secretariat.

Nominations should be addressed to:

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