



DTL/KDB/MISC/2019/1
(19/11gd)

NOTIFICATION

Short courses on key international economic issues for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization

First semester 2019

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that another series of short courses on key international economic issues for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization will be held in the first semester of 2019.

The aim of the courses is to give delegates from permanent missions an opportunity to become better acquainted with topical issues and developments in the international economic agenda as they are reflected in the work of UNCTAD. Course descriptions are provided below.

Three courses will be held in room XXVI of the Palais des Nations on Tuesday, 19 March, Friday, 12 April and Tuesday, 30 April 2019.

The courses will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be delivered in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, French and Spanish. Courses will begin promptly at 10 a.m. to allow sufficient time for debate after the presentations.

The secretariat invites permanent missions to nominate delegates who follow matters pertaining to UNCTAD and/or the World Trade Organization to attend these courses. Course applications may be completed online by using the following link: [Short courses, first semester](#).

Queries concerning the courses should be addressed to Ms. Randa Jamal, Project Coordinator, Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD. Tel.: 41 22 917 2718; email: randa.jamal@un.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

20 February 2019

**Short courses on key international economic issues
for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and the World Trade Organization**

First semester 2019

UNCTAD course descriptions

Trade, trade policy and inequality

19 March 2019, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

Inequality has become a core concern for many policymakers around the world. An important objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to reduce inequality within and among countries (Sustainable Development Goal 10). Trade has been often blamed for generating or exacerbating inequality not only among but also within countries. However, the relationship between trade and inequality at both those levels is complex and is not necessarily one-way. The main objective of the course is to qualify this relationship, referring to the most recent advances in economic theory and the most up-to-date facts and empirical evidence. The course starts with a description of the major dimensions of inequality and a discussion of the ways in which they can be measured. It then defines and describes the different channels of transmission of policy reforms regarding inequality patterns. The last section of the course focuses on the role played by trade policy in framing inequality patterns. It also touches upon the question of how international cooperation in the wake of Sustainable Development Goal 17 could help in promoting convergence in general.

The main objective of the course is to provide factual, methodological and analytical elements for a better and more informed understanding and appreciation of the policy debate about inequality and its consequences. By the end of the course, participants will be able to precisely define the different dimensions of inequality and their measurement. They will also be able to identify any relevant channels of transmission between policy reform with a strong focus on trade policy and the main dimensions of inequality. Furthermore, they will be given the opportunity to discuss in detail any policy elements on which they may have to focus as a part of their professional duties.

Better trade for the Sustainable Development Goals: Using trade as a motor for achieving the Goals

12 April 2019, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

Based on findings drawn from UNCTAD field work, the course will address the following issues: how trade can directly contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by developing countries; ways to synergize export opportunities with greener production, inclusive growth and sustainable development in the context of rural communities and microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises; the market research, policy framework, institutional support and supply chain networking required to improve the contribution of trade to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 8, 12 and 15.

Course participants will learn about: green export opportunities and how they are identified; sustainability standards and their record in bringing gains from trade to rural communities and microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises; how to help rural communities to

safeguard their biodiversity and receive the economic and social benefits of green production and exports.

Commodity dependence and development

30 April 2019, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

The course will offer an overview of issues faced by commodity-dependent developing countries and how continued dependence on commodities will negatively affect their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 1, 2 and 8–10. The issues in question will include negative terms of trade, price volatility, commodity resource management and macroeconomic challenges associated with commodity economies.

The aim of this short course will be to raise awareness among member States of the importance of commodities for their economies and the need to find long-term solutions to the problems afflicting the commodity sector in these countries. Solutions such as the widespread use of hedging instruments and different forms of economic and export diversification will be discussed.
