



DTL/KDB/MISC/2018/4
(18/95ams)

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

Second semester 2018

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 second semester of 2018.

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. Each course falls on a Friday, specifically 14 September, 12 October and 2 November 2018.

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, second 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@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

25 May 2018

**Short courses on key international economic issues
for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and the World Trade Organization
Second semester 2018**

Course descriptions

Trade regulations in the twenty-first century: Non-tariff measures, trade costs and sustainable development

14 September 2018, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

Non-tariff measures affect our daily lives: packaging requirements and limits on the use of pesticides ensure safe food; restrictions on toxins in toys protect our children; and emission standards for cars, which have an impact on climate change. Although most of non-tariff measures serve legitimate policy objectives, they often raise costs that can create hurdles to trade and economic development. In most sectors, the restrictiveness of non-tariff measures by far exceeds current tariffs. Particularly in agricultural sectors, developing country exporters face non-tariff measures equivalent to tariffs higher than 20 per cent.

This course will inform delegates on the interfaces between non-tariff measures and the Sustainable Development Goals, to assist policymakers in designing appropriate trade policies and to introduce tools to strengthen regulatory cooperation. The course will explore the findings of UNCTAD work on non-tariff measures, which encompasses mapping of non-tariff measures data and analysis of trade and welfare impacts.

Non-tariff measures have become a major challenge for exporters, importers and policymakers. One challenge is the lack of transparency in trade regulations, as requirements are often buried in legal texts that are difficult to access. The second challenge is to understand the implications of such regulations on economic, social and environmental goals. Lack of transparency and challenges to complying by small and medium-sized producers are not neutral and lead to de facto discrimination. A third challenge is to enhance regulatory cooperation because differences in non-tariff measures are a major burden for smaller producers and lower income countries.

A century of maritime transport: Challenges and policy options

12 October 2018, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics

Eighty per cent of international trade volumes are transported on ships and, for many developing countries, the share is even higher. For half a century, UNCTAD has accompanied developments in maritime transport and ports through its annual flagship publication, the *Review of Maritime Transport*. For its fiftieth anniversary in 2018, a special publication will look at major trends in seaborne trade over the past and future 50 years.

The short course will introduce key drivers of demand and supply of shipping services and the expected challenges for the future, over the next decades. Presentations will look into developments in trade and transport, as well as the impact of technologies. On the one hand, technological advances and economic reforms in ports and shipping have led to significant improvements in trade efficiency and connectivity, which have helped developing countries reap the benefits from globalization. At the same time, smaller and weaker economies find it increasingly difficult to cope with the growing demands of maritime transport markets. The short course will introduce the latest UNCTAD data and analysis, and allow for questions and discussions of expected future challenges and policy options.

Shaping an inclusive and gender-responsive trade policy

2 November 2018, room XXVI

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals underscore that trade is a powerful enabler of the transformative shifts required to achieve sustainable development. Trade is one of the main aspects under Sustainable Development Goal 17, and its role in the accomplishment of the Goals and targets is explicitly and implicitly recognized. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a valuable benchmark against which to weigh trade liberalization and trade integration efforts. Indeed, global efforts to achieve the Goals are driving a shift from a mindset based on competition to one more focused on solidarity and sustainability. A growing number of recent agreements between countries include provisions with important implications for the Sustainable Development Goals, including on gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The course will provide an opportunity to delve into the nexus between trade and gender equality and women's economic empowerment. It will analyse recent developments in bilateral trade agreements and in regional integration efforts and will look at whether and how these agreements are contributing to realizing gender equality and women's economic empowerment goals.