

ROOM XXVI
Palais des Nations, Geneva

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DECEMBER 2012
10.00 – 18.00



Assessing Port Performance

More than 80 per cent of merchandise trade by volume is seaborne, and the share is even higher for most developing countries. In many cases, over 95 per cent of a developing country's international trade passes through one main seaport. Increased port performance can lead to lower transport costs and help boost a country's competitiveness.

There is presently no global comparison of port performance allowing ports and their clients to benchmark against other ports. Identifying standardized indicators that would allow stakeholders to gain a better understand of their ports' efficiency could be an important first step towards encouraging further port reforms, leading to improved port efficiency and country competitiveness.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss possible ways to measure and compare the performance of seaports. Experts will also analyse whether and how indicators could be developed that would help increase transparency. Experts from governments and port authorities, as well as academics and stakeholders from the private sector, will have an opportunity to share information on recent and ongoing research in this area, and to discuss potential future collaborations, including UNCTAD's role in the process.

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