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NOTIFICATION

Twenty-seventh Regional Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda University of Mauritius, Mauritius

15 July–2 August 2013

The UNCTAD secretariat is pleased to announce that the next regional course on key issues on the international economic agenda for Africa will take place from 15 July to 2 August 2013 at the University of Mauritius with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

The course will focus on the links between trade, investment, finance and development, including in the context of international trade negotiations. Its aim is to:

- Enhance the understanding of the relationship among these areas and their link to countries' development strategies;
- Provide participants with knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of trade and development policies, as well as for trade negotiations corresponding to the needs and interests of their countries.

The syllabus of the course will draw upon UNCTAD's perspective, its analytical work and the lessons learned from its technical cooperation activities, and will be enriched by the competence and expertise of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as national experts, in these areas of work.

The course is mainly aimed at mid-level government officers in ministries and institutions dealing with trade, investment, finance and development issues, and who are involved in the formulation and implementation of national trade and development policies. As appropriate, and depending upon the availability of seats, other applicants such as academics could be considered.

The course will be given in English, with simultaneous interpretation into French. Training materials will be made available in English, with some documentation in French. Candidates are expected to have a full working knowledge of English.

UNCTAD member States in Africa are invited to present qualified candidates for the course. Candidatures will be accepted until 17 May 2013. Member States/successful candidates will be notified of the UNCTAD selection committee's decision by 24 May 2013.

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. Participants will also receive sufficient funds to cover daily meals and miscellaneous expenses. Travel expenses covering the least costly fare will be provided for participants from least developed countries. All selected participants will be responsible for obtaining valid visas to travel to Mauritius prior to their arrival.

An outline of the course syllabus, which provides a detailed list of topics and learning objectives (P166.2013.TS.5), the application guidelines (P166.2013.AG.5) and the application form (P166.2013.AF.5) are attached.

For additional information, please contact the Knowledge Sharing, Training and Capacity Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD; e-mail: mohan.panicker@unctad.org; fax: +41 (0)22 917 0050; tel: +41 (0)22 917 2561.

(signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

19 March 2013

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University of Mauritius, Mauritius**

15 July–2 August 2013

COURSE SYLLABUS

This syllabus presents a short overview of the content of the different modules. For each module, participants from developing and least developed countries selected to attend the course will be expected to gather information on a number of issues before the beginning of the course so that they can contribute to discussions on the different modules using the experience of their countries.

Module 1: Trade, financial flows and macroeconomic policies in a globalizing economy

Objectives: This module highlights topical global economic issues and their implications for development policymaking, with a particular focus on countries in Africa. It follows UNCTAD's integrated approach, examining the interdependence between different policy areas including macroeconomic management, international trade and financial integration, as well as introducing new views regarding the role of the developmental state in the light of the global financial crisis. The course also addresses the interdependence between national, regional and international economic realities and their policy implications.

The module encourages active participation and the sharing of national experiences and delegates are invited to contribute to debate and workshop-style discussions and case-studies.

The module's principal objectives are:

- (a) To examine global economic dynamics and the challenges faced by developing economies in the region – in particular challenges related to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction and macroeconomic policymaking;
- (b) To enhance participants' understanding of the ongoing global economic and financial uncertainty, the macroeconomic policy responses in key economies, and what this implies for development and development policymakers;
- (c) To help participants identify the opportunities for development emanating from globalization, and the policy approaches that can help create an enabling environment for investment and sustainable growth.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will be expected to have deepened their understanding of the implications of trade, financial and macroeconomic integration for inclusive economic growth, the development of productive capacities, structural change and technological upgrading. They should also better understand key challenges related to macroeconomic and regulatory policies aimed at preventing crises and enhancing investment and sustainable growth. Participants will have extended their capacities to pursue appropriate policies and strategies in these areas, at national, regional and international levels.

Questions for participants to consider:

1. What are the major macroeconomic challenges that your country is facing? To what extent are these challenges related to domestic issues or to the global environment (external shocks)? How are your country's policies addressing these challenges? What domestic and international constraints affect the choice of policies and their effectiveness? How could your country's development goals be better pursued?
2. How has your country's specialization evolved over the past few years in terms of output, employment and foreign trade, and what factors have caused these changes? How has your country used foreign trade as an instrument for economic growth? How have your country's terms of trade developed over the past few years? What do you expect to be most important in the future?

Module 2: Investment and enterprise development: trade and development implications

Objective: The objective of this module is to define and evaluate the impact of foreign investment on development, and to highlight best practices on how to create linkages between transnational corporations (TNCs) and domestic enterprises.

The module addresses issues related to international and domestic investment and trade. It begins by examining the latest trends in flows of foreign direct investment (FDI), corporate strategies, and international systems of production. This provides a basis for an assessment of the links between investment and international trade – the integration of developing countries into international systems of production (also called global value chains) as suppliers and producers. Attention is paid to linkages between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and TNCs in order for developing countries to benefit from global trading opportunities, as well as to the need to promote entrepreneurship and strengthen the local supply capacity to sustain competitiveness in the long term. The focus during the whole module is on the policies, institutions and strategies that can best attract FDI and embed it in host economies, as well as on policies for strengthening the local productive capacity.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will be able to define and evaluate the impact of foreign investment on development. Participants will also be able to identify the policies, institutions and strategies that can be put in place to attract and enhance the impact of foreign investment through technological and financial spillovers, growth of employment and exports, TNC–SME linkages and local enterprise development. Participants will also have a firm grasp of global and regional trends in foreign investment flows.

Questions for participants to consider:

1. National FDI policies: What are the perceptions of the role of FDI in your country? Has your country developed a national policy on FDI? If so, what are the key objectives and instruments of this policy? What institutions are responsible for the implementation of the FDI policy in your country? What are their mandates, as regards FDI policy? Does your country receive enough, too much, or too little FDI, and why? Does it receive the right kind of FDI? Is the role of FDI positive or negative?
2. Regarding national enterprise development policies, are there any links between TNCs and SMEs in your country? What are the policies that the Government has put in place to support the SMEs and/or entrepreneurship in your country? Is there any positive spillover in terms of

technology transfer between TNCs and SMEs? Are there clusters of sectorally specialized companies that have been successful in attracting FDI and have become internationally competitive?

Module 3: The knowledge economy: harnessing science, technology and innovation for development

Objective: The objective of this module is to familiarize participants with how African countries can harness science, technology and innovation (STI) to address development problems through the design and implementation of national STI policies and strategies.

The sources of economic growth and development include technological progress and innovation. Harnessing STI has contributed to economic and social progress in many countries. It has also been a key part of the development strategies in several developing countries that are developing quickly and are catching up with the most advanced economies. This module discusses what STI is, how it can contribute to growth and development, and what types of policies and strategies countries can design and implement to build STI capabilities, promote successful technology transfer and develop strong innovation systems.

There is huge diversity among countries in many respects, and national STI strategies and policies must take account of different country circumstances. But the argument will be made that all countries can harness STI in ways that support growth, development and improved social welfare, regardless of their specific circumstances. The module is therefore relevant for economic policy analysts and policymakers from all countries.

Expected outcome: Participants will understand:

- (a) The role that STI can play in stimulating economic and social development;
- (b) The concept of innovation systems;
- (c) How national policies can be used to build STI capabilities and promote technological progress and innovation.

Questions for participants to consider:

1. How important a role have technological progress and innovation played in the growth and development of your country? What are the main weaknesses and strengths of your country's STI development?
2. Does your country have a national policy and/or strategy on STI? What period does it cover? Are there any budgetary resources allocated to the implementation of the policy/strategy? Has the policy/strategy led to any major successes in industrial or agricultural development?

Module 4: International transport and trade facilitation

Objective: The objective of this module is to introduce participants to key issues in international trade logistics, transport and trade facilitation, with an emphasis on economies in Africa. Participants will also discuss trade facilitation measures at the World Trade Organization (WTO), as

well as at regional negotiations, by gathering the elements required to establish a national position in these negotiations. To this end, the module will look at the role of international transport for countries' trade competitiveness, global transport networks, trade support services, and institutional frameworks, as well as customs issues and trade facilitation measures that are presently being negotiated at WTO. In this context, the module will also elaborate on countries' needs and priorities, capacity-building and technical assistance as part of the modalities of a potential negotiation of new binding rules on trade facilitation at the WTO.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants will better understand the role of institutional and physical trade infrastructures in fostering trade competitiveness in terms of supporting productive and trading capacities. Participants will be able to grasp the relevance of trade and transport facilitation and their importance in trade transactions, at national, regional and multilateral levels.

Questions for participants to consider:

1. Please describe one practical example from your country where insufficient or inadequate transport services are an obstacle to trade competitiveness. Please discuss the possible roles of national governments, port authorities, customs, international organizations, the private sector and neighbouring countries (for example, for transit trade) in overcoming this obstacle.
2. From the list of trade facilitation measures that are being negotiated at WTO (see the latest revision of the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text TN/TF/W/165), select one or more measures that, in your view, are important for your country, and should therefore reasonably be accepted by your Government as a measure or measures to possibly be included in a WTO rule on trade facilitation. Please gather information from the national institutions concerned about the extent to which the measure(s) has/have already been implemented in your country. If a measure has not been fully implemented, what would be required for its effective implementation?

Module 5: Development gains from the international trading system: the perspective of developing countries in Africa

Objectives: This module will:

- (a) Examine developments in the international trading system, especially in view of the global financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and the Millennium Development Goals;
- (b) Review the state of play in multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round of international trade negotiations, as well as issues of particular relevance for developing countries in the region and policy options in that regard;
- (c) Consider broader trade and trade-related policy reform issues in these countries' efforts to achieve structural transformation and to draw maximum development gains from the international trading system;
- (d) Investigate ways and means to maximize the beneficial effects of trade agreements, for example by adopting coherent national approaches to regional and multilateral negotiating processes, mitigating adjustment costs, and exploring export opportunities in regional partners for diversification of their economies.

Expected outcome: At the end of this module, participants should be able to identify and understand key challenges and opportunities in the international trading system. They will be cognizant of important factors affecting the design of appropriate national policies and strategies, to maximize gains from their integration into the global economy and to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis.

Questions for participants to consider:

1. Could you list and explain the constraints facing your country in drawing gains from international trade and the international trading system?
2. Could you briefly explain and provide examples of how the economic and financial crisis has impacted trade policy formulation and development strategies in your country?
3. Explain how the trade negotiations can deliver development gains to economies from Africa in the current context.

Module 6: Simulation exercise on national policy objectives and the multilateral trade negotiations

Objective: In order to understand the relationship between negotiations in trade in services (in the context of a country's services negotiations at the WTO) and the wider policy context at the national level, participants will undertake a simulated consultation between national stakeholders as regards the country's possible commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. The exercise will result in a consensual services offer.

Expected outcome: At the end of the simulation exercise, participants will be able to understand the dynamics and challenges of crafting a national position to participate in trade negotiations.

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APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applicant profile

The course is aimed mainly at Government officials dealing with international economic issues, including the formulation and implementation of policies in one or more fields covered in the attached training syllabus.

Participants should:

- Have an advanced degree in economics, business, international relations, international law or public administration. A first degree with proven relevant work experience may also be accepted if places on the course are available;
- Have at least four to six years of relevant professional experience in a national public administration, or an international or regional development organization;
- Be in a position to use and disseminate the information and knowledge acquired during the course. In this context, it is highly desirable for participants to remain in relevant positions for a sufficient time after the course so that the skills and knowledge gained are disseminated to the fullest at their workplace;
- Must have a full working knowledge of English, the official language of the course, and must have proven drafting and oral communication abilities in this language.

Instructions on completing and submitting applications

Candidates are required to submit their applications in English. Applications must include the following four documents:

- An application form (P166.2013.AF.5);
- A detailed curriculum vitae;
- A motivation letter stating: (a) how the applicant in the discharge of his/her professional duties contributes to policy design and implementation in the areas of trade, investment or finance; (b) how the course shall contribute to enhance his/her professional and personal development; (c) why the applicant feels he/she should be chosen to attend this course;
- A short paper answering any two questions in the training syllabus (one paragraph only per question) relevant to his/her national context.

Applications should:

- Be submitted through the candidates' countries' permanent missions accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Contain all the requested documents;
- Be addressed to:
Mr. Mohan Panicker, Project Coordinator
Knowledge Sharing, Training and Capacity Development Branch
Division on Technology and Logistics
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 917 0050
E-mail: mohan.panicker@unctad.org;
- **Reach the UNCTAD secretariat by 17 May 2013.**

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APPLICATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Middle initial: _____ Maiden name: _____ Gender (F/M): _____

Job title: _____

Ministry/institution: _____

Postal address: _____

Tel. No.: _____ Fax No.: _____

E-mail address: _____

Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____

Nationality: _____ Passport No.: _____

Signature of candidate: _____ Place and date: _____

Name and title of supervisor: _____

E-mail and/or fax of supervisor: _____

I am submitting my application to UNCTAD through the Permanent Mission of _____ accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva, together with the following documentation (please check boxes):

- A detailed curriculum vitae
- A motivation letter stating competencies and motivation for this course
- A short paper answering any two questions in the training syllabus (one paragraph only per question) relevant to his/her national context

Applications must reach the UNCTAD secretariat by 17 May 2013.