



NOTIFICATION

Trade and Development Commission

DITC/MSC/2025/9
(25/69gd)

Fifteenth session

28–30 April 2025
Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The UN Trade and Development secretariat has the honour to invite member States to the fifteenth session of the Trade and Development Commission, to be held from 28 to 30 April 2025. The session will open on Monday, 28 April, at 10 a.m. The provisional agenda for the session, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, is contained in document TD/B/C.I/59.

Background documents and agenda

The Commission, as a subsidiary body of the Trade and Development Board defined in paragraph 121 of the Bridgetown Covenant, will provide an opportunity for member States to consider the reports of the following meetings:

- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation
- Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation
- Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
- Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

The topic of the substantive agenda item is leveraging international trade rules for development, namely, how member States, in particular developing countries and the least developed countries, can support their development objectives by better leveraging benefits from multilateral trade rules, particularly in the face of rapidly evolving global developments.

During the session, the secretariat will report on progress made in promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of work of UN Trade and Development (research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance) in the areas covered by the Commission.

The Commission will discuss the trade and development challenges and opportunities associated with the current trade landscape, with a particular focus on the significant difficulties faced by developing countries and the least developed countries in integrating into the global market and the even greater difficulties faced in entering higher value segments of global value chains. The Commission will discuss how these countries can more effectively leverage multilateral trade rules and provisions, with support from the international community, to unlock new opportunities, strengthen their integration into global trade and achieve a long-term economic transformation.

In preparation for the deliberations at the Commission, member States could consider ways to



- Develop targeted strategies to maximize World Trade Organization membership and make full use of the existing flexibilities and special and differential treatment within multilateral trade agreements
- Strengthen partnerships with UN Trade and Development, to build technical expertise and foster evidence-based policymaking
- Promote regional cooperation in South–South trade, to enhance market access and resilience
- Advocate for multilateral reforms that align trade strategies with sustainability and development goals, particularly in emerging areas such as digital trade and clean technologies
- Pursue coherence between negotiations at the World Trade Organization and under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others, to ensure that trade and development aspects are respected

Participation and registration

The Commission is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, may participate as observers.

Online registration, at [Trade and Development Commission, fifteenth session](#), is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the session and is required in order to be included in the list of participants.

All communications concerning registration should be sent to the Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation in room XIX of the Palais des Nations. Those who cannot attend the session in person will be able to listen to the live audio stream in the six official languages of the United Nations. The link to listen live will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one hour before the start of the session.

Participants will receive a digital badge consisting of their photo, a quick response (QR) code and the name and date of the meeting. The digital badge will be sent to each participant by email once they have been accredited by the meeting organizer and should be downloaded to a mobile telephone or other mobile device. Participants may also print the digital badge in order to use the QR code. Participants are also requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to scan their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations. Visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Further information and contact details

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Rebeca Grynspan
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3 April 2025