



SUC/MISC/2016/4
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NOTIFICATION

Global Commodities Forum

Nairobi, Kenya, 15–16 July 2016

The Global Commodities Forum will be held on 15 and 16 July 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya, prior to the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14), which will be held from 17 to 22 July 2016.

The seventh meeting of the Global Commodities Forum is jointly organized by UNCTAD with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the support of their partners. It is a major multi-stakeholder meeting, at which participants can debate potential solutions to perennial problems in the commodity economy.

The theme of the 2016 Global Commodities Forum is “Breaking the chains of commodity dependence”. Growth in emerging markets is slowing and commodity prices are falling; with their export revenues collapsing, how can commodity-dependent developing countries¹ generate the economic growth they need to realize their national objectives and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The 2016 Global Commodities Forum will discuss the current situation in commodities markets by way of introduction, and then focus on potential development strategies for commodity-dependent developing countries. Preliminary topics for the sessions include the following:

- Establishing high-value local content in extractive industries
- The changing landscape of export diversification
- Boosting productivity and value addition in agriculture
- Special session: The role of natural gas in achieving sustainable energy for all in Africa
- Ministerial round table: Commodity-led development and the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

Sessions at the 2016 Global Commodities Forum will contribute to the following overall objectives:

- Increased understanding among policymakers of the potential role for commodities production and trade in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- A road map for policymakers in commodity-dependent developing countries to undertake necessary adjustments to their commodities sectors and policies to align them with a rebalanced global economy
- Identification of models and opportunities for commodity-dependent developing countries to develop new export markets and to restructure and diversify their economies

¹ Countries whose commodity exports represent 60 per cent or more of the total value of their merchandise exports.

UNCTAD 14 will be the first major United Nations conference following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The 2016 Global Commodities Forum therefore represents an important opportunity for policymakers to take action on commodity dependence as a perennial development challenge, and to highlight how commodities can contribute to sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member States are encouraged to send a high-level delegation of policymakers to the Forum.

Participation and registration

The Global Commodities Forum is a free public meeting, with registration required on the official [UNCTAD 14 website](#) by 1 July 2016. Participants must upload a letter of credentials, note verbale, personal invitation or further background information prior to and/or during the online registration process. To expedite the registration process for member State delegations, an initial note verbale from the permanent mission may be uploaded as part of the registration process. Please read the instructions on the official [UNCTAD 14 website](#) for detailed requirements for each participant category. Only registered representatives will be included in the list of participants. Please contact the UNCTAD secretariat with any enquiries at UNCTAD 14: Global Commodities Forum, E.9022, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: 41 22 917 0509; e-mail: gcf@unctad.org.

The Global Commodities Forum assembles stakeholders from throughout the commodities economy, including high-level representatives from national Governments, businesses and international organizations, as well as experts from the private sector, civil society, academia and the press. Participants attend the Forum in their personal capacities.

Member States of UNCTAD are requested to help disseminate the information about the Forum to the main stakeholders in their countries, as well as their official representatives in Kenya and at the regional level, thus facilitating their participation.

Specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the Forum, as well as non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories wishing to participate as observers, are requested to follow the instructions for participation above.

Logistics

The Forum will take place at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, in Nairobi, Kenya. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French and, depending on available resources, in a third official language of the United Nations.

Access to the Kenyatta International Convention Centre

Entry badges for the Forum will be available at the registration centre at city hall across from the main entrance of the Kenyatta International Convention Centre. Participants are requested to bring their passports as well as the code provided during the registration process.

Enquiries

All other enquiries may be addressed to gcf@unctad.org.

(signed)

Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

26 May 2016