



UNCTAD/DITC
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NOTIFICATION

Annual session of UNCTAD's Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries

Geneva, 3 - 4 July 2006

The annual session of the Consultative Task Force (CTF) on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries is scheduled to take place in Geneva on Monday, 3 July and Tuesday, 4 July, 2006. The CTF session will take place back-to-back with tentatively planned meetings of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment on 5-7 July in order to allow delegates to those meetings to attend the CTF meeting as well.

The CTF meeting aims at reviewing (i) the outcome of recent sector-focused project activities implemented under the CTF; (ii) progress on the feasibility analysis on setting up a gateway to guide users on and facilitate access to existing on-line databases on environmental, health and food-safety requirements; and (iii) the thrust of future CTF activities. The meeting will also discuss the outcome of sector- and country-focused activities on environmental requirements and market access carried out under the UK-DFID-funded UNCTAD project "Building Capacity for Improved Policy Making and Negotiation on Key Trade and Environment Issues", implemented in the period February 2003 to August 2006. Part of the discussions will focus on two sectors: (a) horticulture; and (b) electrical and electronic equipment and energy-using products.

The CTF is a multi-stakeholder forum that, in addition to government representatives, is open to participation by the private sector, NGOs, academia and relevant international organizations. In fact, participation by these stakeholders is very much encouraged, because the CTF also covers voluntary environmental, health and food-safety requirements set by the private sector or NGOs, and most such voluntary and mandatory requirements necessitate well-functioning public-private partnerships to proactively and strategically adjust to new requirements in key export markets.

In light of the above, Governments are invited to designate participants for the CTF meeting. This meeting will also be of interest to officials specializing in WTO issues.

The UNCTAD secretariat has a limited budget for supporting attendance of developing country representatives. Most of that financial support will be in the form of a daily subsistence allowance to enable delegates from capital who are attending the CTE meeting to extend their stay in Geneva to attend the CTF annual session.

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The meeting will start on 3 July 2006, at 9.30 a.m. in the Palais des Nations, Room XXIII. Nominations should be submitted, not later than 16 June 2006 to Ms. Nuria Castells, Division on International in goods and services, and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD (fax: +41 22 917 02 47, e-mail: nuria.castells@unctad.org).

The agenda of the meeting, as well as background documentation, will be posted on the UNCTAD website shortly at www.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/spopenF1ctf3.htm. For further information, please contact Ms. Nuria Castells, at the Trade, Environment and Development Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD (nuria.castells@unctad.org, phone: +41 22 917 17 96, fax: +41 22 917 02 47), or, on logistics, Ms. Sheila Addy (Sheila.addy@unctad.org, phone: +41 22 917 58 31, fax: +41 22 917 02 47).

(signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

9 June 2006