

GUIDE TO PARTICIPATION

**Seventh Session of the Committee on Trade and Investment,
27-29 January 2021**

The Committee session under the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the way we live and work. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants as well as taking into account the on-going travel restrictions in many countries, it is decided that the seventh session of the Committee on Trade and Investment will be in virtual format with delegates to join virtually through KUDO videoconference platform.

The 3-hour sessions will take place in the morning and afternoon over 3 days (27 to 28 January from 10.30-13.30 and 29 January from 13.30-16.30, GST+7). We would like to thank everyone in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

For the session to proceed as smoothly as possible, given time constraints, it is requested that country interventions should be brief and focus on the substantive agenda items only and directly address the specific issues for discussion. This will allow the Chair to give an opportunity to all countries to present their point of view and contribute to the discussions. Longer statements can be submitted to the secretariat at escap-tiid@un.org and will be uploaded to the Committee website after the closing of the meeting. After the Committee session, an evaluation of the virtual meeting will be undertaken to capture your feedback and recommendations for the secretariat to take into account when planning future meetings.

Letter of credentials and online registration

As advised in the invitation letter of 4 November 2020, all delegations are required to submit a letter of credentials, duly signed by the appropriate authorities of their respective governments, at the latest by 10 December 2020. Only delegates with such credentials will be recognized in the list of participants. Letters of credentials should be sent via email to escap-tiid@un.org with copy to proksch.unescap@un.org and sukpaibool@un.org or fax at + 662288 1027.

In addition to submitting a letter of credentials, each delegate is required to register online as soon as possible before **18 December 2020** at <https://meetings.unescap.org>. Only registrations of accredited delegates will be accepted.

Virtual participation for all delegates

The Committee session will be held via KUDO platform for virtual participation.

With regards to virtual participation through the KUDO platform, delegates connected remotely who wish to speak need to be on the delegation list, registered on <https://meetings.unescap.org> and nominated in the **speaker list request form** as speaker. Delegates who wish to be physically present in the conference room at the UNCC need only to be on the delegation list (i.e. accredited and registered).

Given the technical limitations of conducting the Committee session through a virtual platform and in view of the mandates and operational requirements of the Committee, member States and associate members of the Commission will be provided with three KUDO connection, and, potentially, a maximum of one additional KUDO connection, depending on availability. If after allocating all the KUDO connections to confirmed participants there remain unused connections, these may be distributed to additional confirmed participants upon request. Therefore, each delegation should indicate first the primary connection and then any additional connections, as appropriate. Please note that the KUDO connection is not transferable. It may be possible to share one KUDO connection at the same premise, provided that it is possible to maintain social distancing in that location, in accordance with national contexts and guidelines.

A guide to using the KUDO videoconferencing platform will be shared in due course with members of each delegation assigned to speak during the session. KUDO users will also be invited to a test-run prior to the session to ensure smooth virtual participation. All stakeholders, including observer organizations, intergovernmental organizations, UN entities, other entities and non-governmental organizations that wish to observe the proceedings may do so via broadcast at a link to be published on the website of the Committee on Trade and Investment: www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-trade-and-investment-seventh-session

(For ESCAP secretariat only) Participants to the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)

Security and Safety

- A. All participants are requested to visibly wear their badges at all times while they are in UNCC.
- B. In case of emergency, please follow the security officers' instructions. Please note where the nearest fire exits are.
- C. Food and drinks are not allowed in all the conference/meeting rooms.

Amenities

- A. There are three catering outlets at the UNCC: International cafeteria and Coffee Corner on Level 1 and Rajapruet Lounge on the ground floor.
- B. Two bathrooms are located on Level 2.
- C. The prayer room is located outside of ESCAP Hall.
- D. Smoking is strictly prohibited within the building. The nearest designated smoking area is in the garden outside the Public Foyer on the ground floor.

COVID-19

Regarding the COVID-19, we would like to share with you some precautionary measures while attending meetings at the UNCC:

- A. Observe up to 2-meter physical distancing while sitting in the conference (or meeting) room. Please do not sit on the seats with "X" sign, and do not move the chairs or furniture in the room.
- B. Wear your face mask in public spaces and whenever physical distancing cannot be observed in the conference room.
- C. Hand sanitizer dispensers are available throughout the UNCC, please use it before and after contacting surfaces including doorknobs, escalator handrail, and elevator buttons.

- D. The UNCC conducts cleaning and disinfection of the surfaces of equipment in the conference and meeting rooms after each session.
- E. Maintain physical distancing when exiting and entering conference room.
- F. Take note of the medical information and contact numbers that will be presented in the video screened prior to the opening of the meeting.

Country interventions

Due to time constraints, the Committee will consider substantive and related procedural issues brought to it for action under Agenda items 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the annotated provisional agenda. Country interventions focused on the substantive issues for consideration in these agenda items are welcome. As stated above, traditional country statements shared for the general information of the Committee should be submitted in writing for uploading on the Committee website. Each delegation is also requested to complete the KUDO speakers list request form to identify which members of the delegation will have a speaking role during the session. Delegations are requested to complete the KUDO speakers list request form and submit it to escap-tiid@un.org as soon as possible before **15 January 2021**.

Documents and interpretation

Pre-session documents are available in Chinese, English, French and Russian and will be uploaded on the documents page of the Committee website. The KUDO videoconferencing platform provides live simultaneous interpretation in the four official languages of ESCAP. Details on how to choose an interpretation channel will be provided in the KUDO participation guide to be distributed to confirmed participants. International sign language interpretation will be provided for the duration of the Committee.

The draft report, in all languages, will be available on the Committee website by noon of 29 Jan 2021 for consideration by the Committee on the final day of the session. Given the technical limitations of conducting the Committee session in a virtual manner and in view of the mandates and operational requirements of the Committee, the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment will contain only two sections: matters calling for action by the Commission and organizational aspects. A short summary of the proceedings in the form of a Chair's summary will be prepared after the meeting.

Consent/Advice to be recorded

The Committee session will be recorded. By joining the virtual event, participants consent to the recording and streaming of the event.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the session

Supporting document:

1. Annotated Provisional Agenda (ESCAP/CTI/2021/L.1)

Agenda item 1 of the provisional agenda includes (a) opening statements; (b) election of officers; and (c) adoption of the agenda.

The session will be opened at 10:30 a.m. Bangkok time (GMT+7) by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

This will be followed by the election of officers of the seventh session.

Following the election of officers, the Chair of the seventh session will present the provisional agenda of the session before the Committee for adoption.

Agenda item 2: Review of recent trends and developments in trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific including impact of rising protectionism and COVID-19 pandemic

Supporting document:

1. Recent trends and developments in trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CTI/2021/1)

The Committee will have before it document ESCAP/CTI/2021/1 containing a review of recent trends and prospects in trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific, including implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional trade and investment. The document will include a review of trade in goods, trade in commercial services, foreign direct investment as well as of trade and investment policy and facilitation measures and agreements.

Agenda item 3: Promoting inward and outward foreign direct investment in the post-COVID-19 era

Supporting document:

1. Promoting inward and outward foreign direct investment in the post-COVID-19 era (ESCAP/CTI/2021/2)

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has been long recognized as an engine of growth and development, in particular as it constitutes an important source of financing for development. Increasingly, it has become apparent that not only inward but also outward FDI can make a contribution to national development. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted global and regional FDI flows. Document ESCAP/CTI/2021/2 discusses how countries can repurpose their FDI promotion efforts, both for inward and outward FDI, to make it work for sustainable development in an era characterized by a new normal.

Agenda item 4: The work of the secretariat and associated results and priorities pertaining to trade and investment under the subprogramme on trade, investment and innovation

a) The work of the secretariat and associated results and priorities pertaining to trade and investment under the subprogramme on trade, investment and innovation

Supporting document:

- 1. Work of the secretariat and associated results and priorities pertaining to trade and investment under the subprogramme (ESCAP/CTI/2021/3)**
- 2. Outcome of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2019 (ESCAP/CTI/2021/INF/1)**
- 3. Outcome of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2020 (ESCAP/CTI/2021/INF/2)**

Document ESCAP/CTI/2021/3 gives an overview of the work of the secretariat related to the implementation of subprogramme 2 of the ESCAP programme of work on trade and investment and the results achieved in that regard since the seventy-fifth session of the Commission, held in May 2019. The work and results to be discussed will be centred on three areas: research and analysis; capacity-building; and regional cooperation. The Committee shall note that the report on activities under the area of innovation was provided at the third session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (19-20 August 2020).

The Committee is also informed of the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Business Forums 2019 and 2020 as contained in documents ESCAP/CTI/2021/INF/1 and ESCAP/CTI/2021/INF/2.

- b) Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme, including its contribution in areas that should be mainstreamed into the work of all the committees in accordance with the conference structure of the Commission**

The secretariat will provide an overview of its work in the areas of trade and investment, including its contribution in areas that should be mainstreamed into the work of all the committees in accordance with the Commission's conference structure.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the preparations for the programme plan based on its deliberations.

Agenda item 5: Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

Agenda item 6: Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session

Supporting document:

- 1. Draft report (ESCAP/CTI/2021/L.2)**

Under agenda item 6, The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its seventh session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-seventh session.

Following the adoption of the report, the Executive Secretary will deliver a closing statement.

The Chair may also deliver a closing statement before formally closing the session.

Events prior or concurrent to CTI7 (tentative)

8th Meeting of the Legal and Technical Working Groups on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation 14-16 October 2020

Webinar Series on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic (28 October – 2 November 2020)

SPECA Thematic Working Group on Trade (16 November 2020)

Launch of Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Trends 2020/2021 in early January 2021

6th meeting of the Interim Inter-governmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (25-26 January 2021) *

A session on Sustainable FDI (4-6 PM on 27 January 2021)

Demonstration of TINA2.0 (9-10 AM and 4-5 PM 28 January 2021)

Demonstration of RIVA1.0 (9-10 AM and 5-6 PM 29 January 2021)