NOTIFICATION

Short courses on key international economic and development issues
for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization

First semester, 2025
Palais des Nations, Geneva

DTL/TIKDB/MISC/2025
(25/14gd)

The UN Trade and Development secretariat is pleased to announce that another series of short courses on key international economic and development issues for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization will be held in the first semester of 2025.

The aim of the courses is to give delegates from permanent missions an opportunity to become better acquainted with topical issues and developments on the international economic agenda as they are reflected in the work of UN Trade and Development. Course descriptions are provided below.

Three courses will be held at the Palais des Nations on Friday, 21 February, Thursday, 3 April, and Thursday, 19 June 2025.

The courses will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be delivered in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, French and Spanish. Courses will begin promptly at 10 a.m. to allow sufficient time for debate after the presentations.

The secretariat invites permanent missions to nominate delegates who follow matters pertaining to UN Trade and Development in the areas of international trade and development, and related aspects of finance, investment and technology. Course applications may be completed online at short courses, first semester.

Queries concerning the courses should be addressed to Ms. Randa Jamal, Chief, Policy Capacity-Building Section, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD; tel.: 41 22 917 2718; email: randa.jamal@un.org.

Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development
30 January 2025

Short courses on key international economic and development issues
for delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization

First semester, 2025, course descriptions

Trade Preferences Outlook 2024
21 February 2025, Room XXVI
Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities
Since the 1970s, non-reciprocal trade preferences, such as the Generalized System of Preferences, have supported export growth in developing countries. However, the rapidly changing global trade landscape poses new challenges. UN Trade and Development research shows the diminishing impact of preferential tariffs, as most-favoured nation tariffs decrease, free trade agreements proliferate and non-tariff measures become more prevalent. In addition, the rise of global value chains and the increasing technological intensity of production have shifted the sources of comparative advantages, necessitating a rethinking of trade preferences. The current state of trade preferences among developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, is examined in this course, including possible ways forward on enhancing their development impact, including broadening market access cooperation to areas beyond tariffs, such as non-tariff measures, services trade, foreign direct investment and technology. The course is relevant with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. At the end of the course, delegates will have gained knowledge of the following:
- Historical evolution of non-reciprocal trade preferences
- Role of trade preferences in promoting export diversification in developing countries: Empirical evidence
- Current trends in preferential trade in the evolving trade landscape
- Possible ways of enhancing the design and implementation of trade preferences and their development impact, including through market access cooperation beyond tariff concessions

Forecast of the global economy and trends; and debt issues among developing economies
3 April 2025, Room XXVI
Delivered by the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies
The global economic landscape is addressed in this course, with a focus on its impact on developing economies. Pressing challenges will be examined, such as increasing debt service costs and deteriorating debt sustainability, fiscal pressures and the uneven effects of technological and geopolitical changes. In addition, opportunities and challenges emerging from climate change, particularly for developing countries, will be addressed, along with how such opportunities and challenges can be navigated in order to foster sustainable development. Through expert insights and discussions, the course is aimed at better equipping participants to navigate complex economic environments and contribute to the formulation of policies that promote resilience, the green transition and equitable growth, while paying attention to fiscal and policy space. At the end of the course, delegates will have gained knowledge of the following:
- Current global macroeconomic landscape
- Strategies with which to address debt sustainability and fiscal challenges
- Opportunities and challenges presented by climate change
- Innovative financing mechanisms and how debt can be managed and addressed

Technology and Innovation Report 2025
19 June 2025, Room XXVI
Delivered by the Division on Technology and Logistics
UN Trade and Development, in this report, discusses the challenges posed by the use of artificial intelligence to policymakers in the areas of industrial and innovation policy, with an emphasis on the implications for developing countries; and examines how the use of artificial intelligence can drive progress towards sustainable development alongside attempts to focus on mitigating risks. The main findings and policy recommendations in the report will be detailed in this course, particularly from the point of view of promoting inclusive technological progress. At the end of the course, delegates will have gained knowledge of the following:
- Insights into national-level policies for supporting the use of artificial intelligence
- Practical recommendations on harnessing artificial intelligence for sustainable development while mitigating risks