PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:40 OPENING SEGMENT

- H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations
- Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO (Video-message)
- Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities of UNCTAD

10:40 - 11:40 INTERACTIVE PANEL 1

Commodity Prices and Development

Commodities continue to play an important role in the economies of many developing countries, with commodity price movements significantly impacting economic growth, poverty, food security and the path to a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable growth. The commodity price surges of 2008 and 2012 gave way to lower global prices, and prices are generally expected to remain at lower levels in the short to medium term. These events renewed global interest in the relationship between commodity prices and long-term economic development. The panellists will be invited to discuss how commodity-dependent countries can design policies that promote productivity, diversification, value addition and value-chain development, promoting inclusive growth and enabling the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Panellists:

Moderator: Ms. Carla Mucavi, Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations

- Mr Christopher Gilbert, Adjunct Professor of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Bologna Center
- Mr Rob Vos, Director of Markets, Trade and Institutions Division, IFPRI
- Mr Fredrik Alfer, Chairperson of the FAO Committee for Commodity Problems
- Mr. Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

11:40 - 12:30 PLENARY SEGMENT

12:30 – 13:00 LAUNCH OF UNCTAD REPORT ON THE STATE OF COMMODITY DEPENDENCE (Simultaneous launch in New York and Geneva)

Moderator: Ms. Coke-Hamilton, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Speaker:

- Ms. Yanchun Zhang, Head, Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD – presenting the main report findings
- Mr Ayodele Odusola, Chief Economist, UNDP African Bureau – short remarks
- Mr. Fredrik Alfer, Chairperson of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems – short remarks

15:00 - 16:00 INTERACTIVE PANEL 2

Moving up the commodity value chain
Commodity trade is characterized by long and complex value chains in which producers are generally stuck at the entry level. As most of the value is captured by participants in upper nodes of the value chain, producers only get a very small share of the value of the final good derived from the primary commodity that they produce. The panellists will discuss the main reasons why commodity-dependent developing countries fail to move up along the value chain and suggest ways and means that can help them to achieve this. Case studies of successful and not so successful experiences will be shared to make the discussion specific while drawing generalizable lessons.

Panellists:

Moderator: Ms. Coke-Hamilton, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

▪ Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Permanent representative of Botswana to the United Nations in Geneva
▪ Mr. Róger Madrigal-López, Chief Economist of the Economic Division to the Central Bank of Costa Rica
▪ Mr. Pedro Conceição Director, Director of Strategic Policy – Burau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP, New York
▪ Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships of World Bank

16:00 - 17:00 PLENARY SEGMENT

17:00 - 17:30 CLOSING REMARKS

▪ H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations