



**COURSE ON KEY ISSUES
ON THE INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC AGENDA**

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics

**The imperative of transforming rural economies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development**

Tuesday, 15 March 2016

Delivered by the
Division on Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ALDC)

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XXVI
10:00 - 10:15	<p>Welcome address by Geneviève Féraud Head, Knowledge Development Branch Division on Technology and Logistics</p> <p>The Session will be moderated by Mohan Panicker, Project Coordinator, P166 Programme</p>	
10:15 - 11:30	<p>The implications of the Sustainable Development Goals for rural areas of developing countries</p> <p>Presented by Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes</p> <p>Q&A session</p>	
11:30 - 13:00	<p>Strategies and policies to accelerate rural transformation</p> <p>Presented by David Woodward, Senior Advisor Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes</p> <p>Q&A session</p>	

The imperative of transforming rural economies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In developing countries the bulk of poverty and other deficits in human development (e.g. in terms of access to education, electricity, water, sanitation, etc.) are located in rural areas. Therefore, fulfilling the recently-adopted Sustainable Development Goals will require transforming the structure of rural economies in both least developed countries and in other developing countries. The short course will discuss the main features of the rural development imperative, as well as policies for rural structural transformation in the areas of finance, agricultural technology, enterprise and innovation, human resources and institutions. These will be discussed in both their national and international dimensions.

Rolf Traeger is Chief of the LDC Section of UNCTAD, where he coordinates the work of research on least developed countries (LDCs) and capacity-building on development strategies and policies. He leads the team which writes UNCTAD's *Least Developed Countries Report*, which he has co-authored since 2007. He has been working since 1991 as an economist for the United Nations. During the period 1999–2006 he worked at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), where he co-authored UNECE's *Economic Survey of Europe*. His main areas of work include: sustainable development, structural transformation, technology, development strategies and policies, poverty, international trade, migration and rural development.

David Woodward is Senior Adviser in the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes of UNCTAD. In more than 30 years as a development economist, he has also worked for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the UK Executive Director's Office in the IMF and World Bank, the World Health Organisation and UN DESA, as well as in the voluntary sector and independently, largely focusing on linkages between global economic issues and governance and development, poverty and health. He is the author of *Debt, Adjustment and Poverty in Developing Countries* (Pinter Publishers, 1992) and *The Next Crisis? Direct and Equity Investment in Developing Countries* (Zed Books, 2001) and co-editor of *Global Public Goods for Health: Economic and Public Health Perspectives* (OUP, 2003), and has published articles in journals in the fields of economics, development, political economy and health, as well as numerous discussion papers.