



The Commonwealth



COVID-19 Policy Briefing Series

Panel Discussion on COVID-19 and Commodities: Assessing the Impact on Exports from Commonwealth Countries

Thursday 5 November 2020, 3.00–4.00pm GMT

Commodity exports constitute a large share of world merchandise trade for many developing and developed countries. In 2019, of the US\$18.9 trillion merchandise trade, around one-third comprised commodities – 25 per cent and 30 per cent for developed and developing countries, respectively. Out of the 102 commodity-dependent developing countries (CDDCs) in the world, 31 are Commonwealth countries, representing 60 of its membership. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a steep decline in commodities exports and created several macroeconomic challenges for these countries.

This webinar will discuss the findings of a recent study by the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNCTAD. It will:

- Provide an overview of the salience of commodities in Commonwealth countries' merchandise exports
- Analyse the impact of the COVID-19 shock on commodity-dependent Commonwealth countries
- Assess the export revenue losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic shock and explore variation by sectors, markets and regions

Speakers



Dr Brendan Vickers

Head of International Trade Policy
Section, Commonwealth Secretariat



Dr Salamat Ali

Trade Economist, Commonwealth
Secretariat



Marco Fugazza

Research Economist, UN Conference
on Trade and Development



Dr Sophie van Huellen

Lecturer in Economics at SOAS,
University of London

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