

## TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEWS

### HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF TRADE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



#### GLOBAL CONTEXT



International trade is an engine for economic growth that can contribute to promoting sustainable development. It can be a powerful force for creating jobs, fostering efficient use of resources, stimulating entrepreneurship and ultimately lifting people out of poverty. Many developing countries, however, have limited capacity to analyse the relationship between trade, productive capacity and employment, assess policy options and formulate and implement adequate national trade policy frameworks. This hampers their ability to make full use of the transformative power of trade for development.

The UNCTAD Trade Policy Framework Reviews help countries assess their trade policy regimes in a systematic, comprehensive and strategic manner, to identify possible areas for improvement. The Reviews focus on identifying key sectors for diversification with the potential to bring higher economic value, setting the right trade policies to back up those development priorities and establishing a trade policy framework to ensure effective implementation of such strategies. The aim is for Trade Policy Framework Reviews to contribute to the (re)formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes according to a country's own needs. The Reviews, via analysis and workshops, provide the tools to policymakers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that enable them to set their own priorities, make impact assessments of different policy options and devise the best actions, including at the sectoral level.



#### HOW ARE THE LINKS BETWEEN TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MADE?

A Review is initiated at the request of a Government. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process and takes ownership of the policy recommendations.

The first level of intervention consists of analytical and advisory support to raise awareness and enhance understanding, among key trade policy stakeholders, on the link between trade and development and poverty. The next step consists of training activities to enhance the expertise of government officials involved in the formulation of national trade-related policies. Lastly, the third level of intervention focuses on concrete and hands-on support for the formulation of national trade policy – to best reflect the country's priorities and needs – and facilitating multi-stakeholder consultation towards its adoption and implementation.

In concrete terms, preparation of a Review is preceded by national multi-stakeholder consultative workshops, to engage with national stakeholders to identify key trade and development challenges faced by the country and possible remedies and policy reforms. Following the preparation of the Review by UNCTAD, the analysis and policy recommendations emanating from the Review are reviewed and validated at national multi-stakeholder validation workshops for further governmental actions, as appropriate.



#### PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

**Scope:** All regions

**Start date:** late 1990s (original approach); 2013 (updated methodology)

**Reviews per year:** 2 (average)

**Reviews to date:** 40+ country and/or regional assessments of overall or sectoral trade policies

**Website:**  
[unctad.org/TPF-Reviews](http://unctad.org/TPF-Reviews)

**Sustainable Development Goals addressed:**

**Directly:** 17

**Indirectly:** 8 and 9





## RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Reviews have been conducted since 2013 of nine countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia.
- Based on the work of UNCTAD, in 2010, Rwanda adopted a new comprehensive trade policy framework.
- Following the Review prepared by UNCTAD, Jamaica is in the process of adopting a new trade policy framework.
- Several countries have embarked on the implementation of recommended policy measures by formulating draft national trade policy legislation and an implementation road map, such as Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. For example, in Botswana, an updated draft national trade policy has been prepared by the Government, and the Review helped Zambia to move towards export diversification.

*"Words alone are not enough to thank UNCTAD for its financial and technical support provided for the preparation of Zambia's trade policy framework. Long live this UNCTAD–Government partnership and we will engage you again in the implementation phase very soon."*

Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia, 2016

*"UNCTAD has been very supportive in the area of trade policy formulation and in building our capacity to implement the recommendations of the review."*

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda, 2015



### DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Past: United Nations  
Development Account

### Trade Policy Framework Reviews completed to date

