



**Report on Technical Cooperation**  
**to the Working Party on the Strategic**  
**Framework**  
**and the Programme Budget, 73rd session**

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# UNCTAD TC Clusters I to IV: DITC

## **A. Transforming economies, improving competitiveness**

- 1- Services Policy reviews
- 2- Trade policy framework reviews
- 3- Non-tariff measures
- 4- National green export reviews
- 5- Accession to the WTO

## **B Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience**

- 6- BioTrade Initiative

## **C Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance**

- 7 - Voluntary peer reviews on competition law and policy

## **D Empowering people, investing in their future**

- 8- Trade , Gender and Development Programme

# A. Transforming economies, improving competitiveness

## 1- Services Policy reviews (SPRs)

**Objective:** Assist developing countries to seize the opportunities offered by a services-driven development strategy. Services Policy Reviews was developed to systematically analyze the economic, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks that impact on the services sector with focus on implementing SDGs, and provide recommendations to improve coherent policy mix s as well as regulatory and institutional frameworks and to identify trade policy options.

### Outputs:

- SPR conducted for Uganda (Phase I and II), Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Rwanda, Lesotho, Peru, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Bangladesh.
- MYEM on Services, Development and Trade (2015) examined lessons learned from SPRs for the identification of best-fit services policies regulations and institutions.

### Results/Impact:

- Feedback from beneficiaries and the evaluation results indicate positive impact of the reviews and appreciation of SPR methodology
- In 2015, UNCTAD concluded the first SPR for Bangladesh. The Review is expected to help the country in formulating pragmatic services policies and to effectively participate in the negotiations in the WTO on services waiver.
- Following the Review (second phase) for Uganda in 2015, the country committed to implementing its policy recommendations.
- Several countries have expressed interest for undertaking SPRs, including a request from ECOWAS for a regional SPR in the context of UNCTAD support on CFTA services negotiations, as well as the Pacific Islands Forum and OECS

# Services Policy Reviews undertaken

## Africa

- Angola
- Lesotho
- Rwanda
- Uganda I and II

## Asia

- Bangladesh
- Kyrgyzstan
- Nepal

## Latin America

- Jamaica
- Nicaragua
- Paraguay
- Peru



This includes services reviews on SPRs and Trade Policy Frameworks. Other general reviews of services policies supported by UNCTAD were undertaken by: Andean countries, Colombia, Jordan, SADC countries.

## • 2- Trade Policy Framework Reviews (TPFs)

**Objective:** Help countries to assess and formulate development-oriented trade policy frameworks (TPFs) to enable their qualitative integration into the international trading system and support their achievement of SDGs. The reviews provide the tools to policy makers to enable them to set their own priorities make impact assessments of different policy options and devise the best actions, including at sectoral level.

### **Outputs:**

- In 2015, assistance was provided for Angola, Algeria, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Tunisia, Bhutan, Panama, Dominican Republic and Iran
- - Organized an inter-regional Trade Policy and Sustainable Development Meeting (6-8 October 2015) to share countries experiences and lessons learnt

### **Results:**

- Several TPFs were finalized & validated through national multi-stakeholder consultative processes, and follow-up work being undertaken to prepare for the implementation phase.
- Increased understanding of policymakers and trade negotiators on national policies and strategies needed to achieve inclusive and sustained development.

## • 3- Non-tariff measures (NTMs)

**Objective:** to improve transparency with regard to NTMs to address market access constraints and to enhance understanding of impact of NTMs on developing countries. Support policy makers in their effort to deepen regional/multilateral integration and to design smart domestic regulations that protect health and the environment but can affect trade.

### **Outputs:**

- 5 courses on NTM data collection and policy were delivered and additional requests have been received. Second edition of the online training course on NTMs was held with Virtual Institute.
- Transparency on NTMs significantly increased with a coverage of 80 per cent of world trade.
- "Regional NTMs Integration Review" supporting policy makers in regional integration has been further developed and published.

**Results/impact:** Countries/regions have been using UNCTAD data/analysis for negotiations at regional level. Trained experts and government officials have enhanced knowledge of NTMs. Largest and highest quality NTMs database publicly available. Several requests for additional courses and Regional NTMs Integration Reviews received.

## • 4- National Green Export Reviews (NGERs)

**Objective:** Support national stakeholders to expand production and export capacity for green products in selected sectors, while building new channels for value added production and export.

### **Outputs:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Stakeholder Workshop on **Ecuador's** NGER : Fish, Cocoa, Chocolate
- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Stakeholder Workshop on **Vanuatu's** Green Export Review: Coconut, Cocoa, Sandalwood
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Stakeholder Workshop on **Morocco's** NGER : Olives, Olive Oil, Rosemary, Thyme
- 1<sup>st</sup> National Stakeholder Workshop on **Ethiopia's** NGER : Sesame, Natural Leather
- Regional Stakeholder Review of Green Products in **Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan**
- Two new NGERs launched for **Lebanon, Madagascar**

**Results/impact:** National Action Plans adopted by public and private stakeholders and implementation underway in Ecuador, Morocco and Vanuatu. Other countries to follow as their NGERs advance.

## • 5-WTO Accession

**Objective:** To build national analytical, policy & institutional capacity, especially that of national negotiating team, to effectively engaging in WTO accession processes and undertake national trade policy reforms to support the country's accession on terms that support its development strategies and achievement of SDGs

### **Outputs:**

- Conducted advisory and capacity building support to 22 acceding countries, including all acceding LDCs
- Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Comoros, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Liberia, Samoa, Seychelles, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Yemen

### **Results/impact:**

- DITC supported acceding countries since WTO's inception in 1995
- DITC support to trade negotiations and WTO accession was positively evaluated by a 2015 external evaluation of the subprogramme
- DITC closely supported and contributed to those countries that recently completed WTO process, i.e., Seychelles, Kazakhstan, Liberia and Afghanistan
- DITC received increased requests for support on WTO accession, including pre and post-accession phases



# B. Tackling vulnerabilities, building resilience

## 6. BioTrade Initiative

**Objective:** to support the trade and investment in biodiversity in line with the 3 objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant internationally agreed development goals including SDGs

### **Outputs:**

- Study to “assess traceability systems for CITES-listed ornamental plants from the Andean/LAC” was peer reviewed and submitted to CITES Secretariat for the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.
- Study on "Facilitating BioTrade in a Challenging Access and Benefit Environment" peer reviewed by more than 15 international experts.
- Organized a briefing on "Implementing SDGs: Trade in biodiversity-based goods and services", Geneva.
- Produced a number of publications and reports on the topic.
- Organized a number of multistakeholders seminars and workshops to promote BioTrade

### **Results/impact:**

- BioTrade is being recognized locally and globally, and utilized as a tool to address poverty alleviation, support sustainable livelihoods in developing countries and SDGs implementation.
- The recommendations for the traceability study will contribute to the overall discussion to define an «umbrella» traceability system for CITES listed species.
- The scoping study will provide useful inputs to facilitate the BioTrade-friendly implementation of The Nagoya Protocol in beneficiary countries, particularly Peru and Vietnam.

# C. Fostering economic efficiency, improving governance

## 7. Voluntary peer reviews on competition law and policy

**Objective:** provide opportunity to discuss market-based policy approaches and promote development with a view to ensuring that markets work for the poor.

### **Outputs:**

- During the 7th UN Conference to review the UN set on Competition policy, peer review report sessions were held for Albania, Fiji and Papua New Guinea which included the presentation of projects to implement the peer review recommendations under consideration.
- A number of disseminations events were also organized.

**Results/impact:** In countries assisted, new competition laws and policies have been instituted and implemented to foster a culture of competition and competitiveness.

# D. Empowering people, investing in their future

## 8. Trade , Gender and Development Programme

**Objective :** To support member countries to:

- Assess the distinct effect of trade policy on men and women
- Identify gender-based constraints that impede inclusive development and devise strategies/measures to overcome them
- Integrate gender considerations in policy-making as well as in the negotiation of trade and other agreements

**Outputs :**

- Synthesis report of 7 country case studies on the gender ramifications of trade policy
- Policy Brief on gender-sensitive implementation of the SDGs
- Teaching package on Trade and Gender (jointly developed with the Virtual Institute)
  - Two-volume Teaching Manual
  - Online course (1st iteration January-February 2015, 104 participants from 51 countries)
- Regional workshops were held in South Africa (for SSA) and Barbados (for the Caribbean Region).
- The 2015 session of the Gender Academy was held in Turin, jointly organized by UNCTAD, ILO and UN Women (158 participants from 70 countries)
- High-level segment of the TDB (Sept 2015): Role of Women as Catalysts for Trade and Development.

**Results/impact :**

The above activities yielded positive and multiplier effects in terms of enhanced capacities to mainstream gender in trade policy:

- 64% of interviewed stakeholders rated the **country studies** as extremely or very relevant to national context
- **Online course:** 50% of survey respondents found the course excellent; 34% very good
- 55% of the participants in the **Regional Seminar in Barbados** rated the workshop as excellent and 45% as very good.
- A participant in the **workshop in SA** stated “There is a limited number of researchers who really understand the interplay between trade and gender. I therefore wish similar projects be extended to other parts of the world to sensitize developing countries on gender issues.”

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# THANK YOU

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