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Trade Facilitation in regional integration: a tool for achieving SDGs

Presentation by

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Trade Facilitation in regional integration: a tool for achieving SDGs

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I. Trade Facilitation and SDGs
II. Trade Facilitation and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
III. Trade Facilitation: a tool to deepen regional integration
Linkages between Trade Facilitation and SDGs

Two correlations:

- Positive correlation btw trade facilitation and GDP per capita
- Positive correlation btw trade facilitation and Human Development Index (HDI)
WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in the SDGs

- SDG 8 - Targets 8.2, 8.3: Decent work and economic growth through higher levels of economic productivity and formalization and growth of MSMEs
- SDG 10 – Target 10.b: Reduced inequalities
- SDG 16 - Targets 16.9, 16.10, 16.15: Public Access to information, Reduce corruption, and Ensure responsive, inclusive decision making at all levels
- SDG 17: Promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships

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WTO TFA and the Goal 17:

- **TFA Art. 3: Advance Rulings**
  17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system […]
  17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

- **TFA Art. 6: Disciplines on Fees and Charges**
  17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries […]

- **TFA Art. 10: Formalities**
  17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries

- **TFA Art. 23.2: NTFC**
  17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships […]

National Trade Facilitation Committees: A successful Public-Private Partnership

- WTO TFA Obligation to set up a coordinating mechanism (TFA Art 23.2)

  **2 National Committee on Trade Facilitation**
  Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

- NTFCs are composed of public / private stakeholders
- UNCTAD Empowerment Program for NTFCs
UNCTAD has assisted the NTFCs in 22 African countries since 2016 and 6 more will be added next year (five ECCAS countries and Mozambique)

- We support the TF processes at all levels (CFTA, RECs, National)

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Promoting regional integration

- Increased intra-regional trade and economic diversification
- Improved harmonization / transparency
- Role of the RECs vs « hyperglobalization »
- Regional value chains

TFA encourages partnership and cooperation and deepens regional integration through:

- Inter-agency collaboration
- Customs cooperation
- Regional collaboration to set up enquiry points
- Single Window
- Transit trade

Improve trade efficiency and competitiveness
Best practices of SDG 17 in TF at regional level:

UNCTAD Cooperation with the EAC since 2014 (*GIZ and TradeMark EA Funding*)

**East African Community**
- Population: 172 million
- Customs Union, Single Customs Territory and a Common Market
- Total GDP: USD 172.2 billion (2017)

UNCTAD support to EAC TF Institutional Framework (NTFCs and RCTF)

May 2015: EAC Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation
UNCTAD Support to EAC

Dec. 2018: Adoption of the EAC Ministerial Declaration on Trade Facilitation

Conclusion

Trade Facilitation: a tool for more regional integration and partnerships

TF Reforms contribute to regional schemes to improve trade efficiency and competitiveness and intra-regional trade (ex: AfCFTA)
Thank you

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