NON-TARIFF MEASURES WEEK
NTMs: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

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PACER Plus Transparency Programme

by

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
PACER Plus Transparency Programme – why?

• Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus
  • Regional agreement covering trade, investment, development, etc.
  • Signed by AUS, NZ and 9 Pacific Islands Countries (ongoing ratification)
  • Transparency as key component

• PACER Plus Readiness Package funded by AUS/NZ
  • UNCTAD: To help Pacific islands countries to fulfill transparency commitments
    before and after the Agreement’s entry into force

• Beneficiaries
  • National authorities, institutions
  • SMEs
  • Women entrepreneurs, etc.
PACER Plus Transparency Programme – how?

- Development of National Trade Portal per country & Regional Trade Portal
  - Publish
    - Step-by-step overview of procedures
    - Regulations with legal text and additional information
  - Notify Contact Points of other PACER Plus countries
  - Provide an opportunity to comment to Contact Points and the Public
  - Provide useful knowledge on trade and gender nexus
- For example,
  - Vanuatu Trade Portal
    https://tradeportal.gov.vu/
  - Regional Trade Portal
    http://pacific.tradeportal.org
PACER Plus Transparency Programme – so what?

• Sustainability of Trade Portal
  • National ownership and full control (tailor design, logos, colors, pictures, navigation and content to your needs)
  • Easy administration of users’ rights and user-friendly interface
  • Installation on local server or in the cloud

• Not just implementing the PACER Plus, the increased transparency also…
  • Promotes public awareness of trade rules and procedures
  • Lowers *information costs of trade* and ultimately, consumer prices
  • Facilitates *regulatory cooperation* across ministries / countries / public and private sectors - > *NTM data collection and analysis*
  • Facilitates *simplification of procedures*
  • Attracts *foreign direct investment*