

UNCTAD workshop on  
**Recognition of qualifications to facilitate  
movement of natural persons**

Co-organized by UNCTAD-ACP Secretariat

Geneva, 3 May 2019

**Opening remarks**

by

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# **Workshop on Reaping the Developmental Benefits from Trade in Services through Mode 4**

Geneva, Switzerland, 3 May 2019.

## Opening Remarks by ACP Secretariat

This workshop is part of a long tradition of cooperation between UNCTAD and the ACP Secretariat. Since UNCTAD is the focal point of the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development, the ACP Secretariat has found UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities to be powerful tools for tackling the challenges that the ACP Group faces.

We chose in this workshop today to focus on the mutual recognition of qualifications because this is an ever present issue, which sits in a number of fora, including in the WTO, in the IOM, in the ILO and here at UNCTAD. Issues of frameworks and systems, assessment parameters and criteria, arise equally whether the migration is regional, continental or across continents. The Global Compact on Migration, probably more than any other international instrument, shines a bright light on this issue and we believe that if we are able to get some answers to some of the questions to be addressed at this workshop today this could be useful in informing related processes unfolding within the ACP Group, as well as those processes that will unfold in future such as the High-Level Political Forum Review in July this year where governments will be invited to report on the implementation of the migration-related SDG target 10.7. The ACP Secretariat therefore highly anticipates the outcome of this workshop.

The ACP Secretariat considers Mode 4, the movement of natural persons, as the connection to the other modes of services delivery. Which makes Mode 4 perhaps the most difficult mode to deal with. Linked as it is to migration, Mode 4 gives rise to some unique challenges, and to opportunities as well.

The ACP Group continues to make every effort, in all relevant processes, to turn mobility and migration into opportunity and to address challenges through the adoption of effective migration policies. The mutual recognition of qualifications being one of those

policies. We are alive to the associated challenges such as brain drain and the need for the fair treatment of third country nationals, and the adoption of effective integration policies. The larger aim is to maximize the benefits of well-managed migration and mobility. For, in one way or the other; at one time or the other; in some place or the other, we are all migrants.

I am sure we are all aware that there are many national and regional systems and frameworks in place on the mutual recognition of qualifications. The technical challenges around these, as well as some of the political challenges, are mostly common. But they are some unique ones as well. With this in mind, the ACP Secretariat has funded experts on these issues from the ACP Group regions - from CARICOM, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and SADC - to be with us here today to share their regional experiences on this issue. As you can imagine, being the hands-on experts, they can do this a lot better than I, or anyone in the ACP Secretariat, could ever attempt to do.

I THANK YOU.

**F. Maonera**

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