

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD



**Expert Group Meeting for Least Developed Countries on the Preparation for
the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Bali, Indonesia**

11 November 2013

Programme

Room XI

Palais des Nations, Geneva



Opening Session

- 10–10.10 a.m. Welcome statement, Mr. Seraphin Lissassi, Ambassador, Benin, and Coordinator for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- 10.10–10.20 a.m. Opening remarks, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Ambassador, Nepal
- 10.20–10.30 a.m. Opening statement, Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

Item 1 **The current status of LDC package for the Bali World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference: Challenges and opportunities for LDCs**

This session is intended to provide an overview of negotiations of the LDC package on the road to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia

- Moderator** Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes
- 10.30–10.45 a.m. Policy challenges and opportunities for LDCs on the way to Bali, Mr. Hari Odari, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal, Geneva, Switzerland
- 10.45–11 a.m. The viewpoint of a practitioner on the way to Bali, Mr. Craig van Grastek, President, Washington Trade Reporter
- 11–11.30 a.m. Interactive discussions

Item 2: **The duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) and rules of origin commitment: Status of implementation on the way to Doha and current negotiations**

This session is intended to provide detailed information on the key issues surrounding the implementation of the DFQF commitment and the LDC proposal on rules of origin

- Moderator** Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes
- 11.30–11.45 a.m. The missing part of DFQF: What remains to be achieved?
- Mr. Hari Hodari – Permanent Mission of Nepal
 Mr. Stefano Inama – UNCTAD
 Mr. Craig van Grastek – Washington Trade Reporter
- 11.45 a.m.–12 p.m. Presentation of the rules of origin proposal, Mr. Stefano Inama, UNCTAD

- 12–12.30 p.m. The point of view of the preference-giving countries:
- Mrs. Oksana Zikuna, European Union Trade Commission
 - Mr. Liu Ping, First Secretary, Delegation of China at WTO
- 12.30–1 p.m. Interactive discussions

Lunch break

Item 3: The operationalization of the services waiver and the cotton issue

This session will focus on the modalities that have been discussed so far to make operational and meaningful the services waiver and the issues that LDCs are raising in the context of cotton

- Moderator** Mr. Craig van Grastek, President, Washington Trade Reporter
- 3–3.15 p.m. The LDC position on the service waiver, Mr. Bijoy Bhattacharjee, Minister, Economic Affairs, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva, Switzerland
- 3.15–3.45 p.m. Possible modalities on the operationalization of the services waiver
- Ms. Natasha Ward, Consultant
 - Mr. Pierre Sauvé, Director, External Programmes and Academic Partnerships, World Trade Institute, Bern, Switzerland
- 3.45–4.15 p.m. Interactive session
- 4.15–4.30 p.m. The cotton proposal, Representative of Burkina Faso
- 4.30–4.45 p.m. Interactive session
- 4.45–5 p.m. Concluding remarks, Mr. Craig van Grastek