

Ad-hoc Expert Meeting on UNCTAD VSS Assessment Toolkit
Assessing Stakeholders' Preparedness to Voluntary Sustainability Standards
 28 March 2019 (10h30-16h30), Room Concordia 5, Palais des Nations, Geneva

PROGRAMME

9:45	Registration
10:15	Welcome and objectives of the meeting Bonapas Onguglo, Head, Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD
10:30	Introduction to the VSS Assessment Toolkit Dr Aimee Hampel-Milagrosa, Economist, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), Asian Development Bank
11:00	Report on pilot studies of the VSS Assessment Toolkit Experience applying the VSS Assessment Toolkit to organic certification in the coffee value chain in Lao PDR, and the coconut oil value chain in the Philippines and Vanuatu
11:45	Conceptual underpinnings of the VSS Toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can VSS be a governance tool to transform agriculture and expand green exports? • Does this analysis capture power differences along the value chain? • Does the model reflect the dynamics that affect the decision to adopt VSS?
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Structure and analytics of the toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all key questions included in the survey and interview? What is missing? • Are the connections with the SDGs relevant to the interviewees? • Is the data analysis guide useful? What other methods could be used?
14:15	Usefulness, adaptability and applicability of VSS toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What key biases do you see emerging from this research? • Are there similar initiatives? How can the toolkit complement them? • How can this be better linked to the national and regional agendas of countries?
15:00	Modes of dissemination and support structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would designing an on-line based tool be useful? What would it look like? • Is it useful to develop platforms for users to share findings and experiences? • Should there be a monitoring committee to provide support to actors?
15:45	Break
16:00	Closing remarks and next steps Miho Shirotori, Chief, Global and Regional Trade Analysis, Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD