

Executive workshop

Negotiating and drafting rules of origin for LDC WTO Group

9 - 12 May 2023

Theatre - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific organiser:

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

Introduction

The executive training on *Negotiating and drafting Rules of Origin (RoO) for LDC WTO Group* is a four-day intensive workshop aimed at providing an in-depth analysis of rules of origin in the multilateral trading system to adequately prepare LDC delegates to better understand and actively participate in multilateral deliberations at the WTO Committee on rules of origin and other negotiating fora.

The course provides an accurate and tailored examination of the different aspects of rules of origin and an update on the status of RoO in international trade from an institutional and business perspective, the various options and modalities to draft rules of origin and the trade effects in drafting these rules. The presenters are officials of UNCTAD, WTO, WCO, ADB, Government officials and business leaders.

The event includes presentations, interactive discussions, and simulations of negotiations on rules of origin, preparing for the Committee of Rules of Origin meetings on the road towards the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13). Participants will learn about the negotiations leading the road to Nairobi Decision, the main techniques of drafting rules of origin, different models of rules of origin in FTAs, the use of utilisation rates to measure restrictiveness of rules of origin and the lessons learned from the implementation of the Nairobi Decision. The training will also discuss the experience of ADB in assisting Asian countries and in concluding discussions to prepare for the next session of the CRO on 12 October and the CRO Report for MC 13.

Programme

9 May

- 08.30 - 09.00 Arrival and registration
- 09.00 - 09.15 Welcome
- 09.15 - 09.30 Opening statement
Paul Akiwumi | Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD
- 09.30 - 09.45 Opening remarks
Coordinator of the LDC Group | WTO
- 09.45 - 10.15 Coffee break

Item 1: The current status of rules of origin in the multilateral trading system

This session is intended to provide an overview of the status of rules of origin in the multilateral trading system and the way forward to MC13

- 10.15 - 10.30 *Presentation of the course and its objectives*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 10.30 - 10.45 *Why rules of origin matter for business?*
Jon Edward | AJ Bicycle manufacturer, Cambodia
- 10.45 - 11.00 Interactive discussion
- 11.00 - 11.30 *WCO instruments and Tools – Practical Guide to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Rules of Origin for LDCS*
Chunxiao Xu | WCO
- 11.30 - 11.45 Interactive discussion
- 11.45 - 12.15 *The path to WTO Ministerial Decisions on Rules of Origin*
Darlan Marti | WTO
Simon Neumueller | WTO
- 12.15 - 12.30 Interactive discussion
- 12.30 - 12.50 *Lessons learned from the CRO proceedings leading to Nairobi Decision and its implementation: An LDC core group leader perspective*
Elia Mtwewe | Counsellor, Mission of Tanzania
- 12.50 - 13.00 Interactive discussion
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch

Item 2: The LDC WTO agenda on rules of origin: Building on the achievements to move forward

This session is intended to provide detailed background technical information on how the LDC have brought forward their agenda in WTO and the support provided by UNCTAD and other stakeholders.

- 14.15 - 14.45 *The long path the Nairobi ministerial decision on preferential rules of origin: an assessment and possible way forward Excerpts from UNCTAD publication "Getting to better Rules of origin for LDCs using utilization rates"*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 14.45 - 15.15 *The LDC submissions leading to the Nairobi Decision: Excerpts from the previous submissions (UNCTAD Compendium I)*
Egbert Amoncio | UNCTAD
- 15.15 - 15.30 Interactive discussion
- 15.30 - 15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45 - 16.15 *The LDC submissions leading to the Nairobi Decision: Excerpts from the previous submissions (UNCTAD Compendium II)*
Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
- 16.15 - 16.30 Interactive discussion
- 16.30 - 17.00 *Next steps towards MC13*
Marti Darlan | WTO
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 17.00 - 17.30 Interactive discussion

10 May Item 3: The technicalities of rules of origin

- 09.00 - 09.30 *Concepts of rules of origin (1): Trade effects of RoO and trade preferences, wholly obtained, substantial transformation, and ancillary concepts*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 09.30 - 09.45 Interactive discussion
- 09.45 - 10.15 *Concepts of rules of origin (2): Cumulation*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 10.15 - 10.30 Interactive discussion
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 - 11.45 *Technical drafting of rules of origin: Evidence from FTAs and lessons learned during CRO debates*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 11.45 - 12.00 Interactive discussion

- 12.00 - 12.45 *Certification of proof of origin: Lessons learned and new frontiers*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 12.45 - 13.00 Interactive discussion
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 14.45 *Measuring restrictiveness of Rules of Origin using Utilization rates: Evidence from EU and Canada RoO reforms and CRO debates*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 14.45 - 15.00 Interactive discussion
- 15.00 - 15.15 Coffee Break
- 15.15 - 15.45 *Evidence on Utilization rates from WTO secretariat notes*
Darlan Marti | WTO
Simon Neumueller | WTO
- 15.45 - 16.00 Interactive discussion
- 16.00 - 16.30 *Extracting data from UNCTAD GSP website and Comtrade to produce the Diagnostic of Utilization of Trade Preferences (DUTP) and COMESA study on URs*
Egbert Amoncio | UNCTAD
Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
- 16.30 - 17.00 Interactive discussion
- 11 May** **Item 4: Simulation of negotiations on RoO - Preparing for the Committee of Rules of Origin meeting and related negotiating context RoO**
- 09.00 - 09.30 *Presentation of negotiation simulation*
WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC
- 09.30 - 10.30 *LDC group presentations and discussion Module 1 – Substantial transformation: Value added, percentage thresholds*
- LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Senegal
 - Alternate – Central African Republic
- PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Bangladesh
 - Alternate – Niger
- 10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break

- 10.45 - 11.45 *LDC group presentations and discussion Module 2 – Substantial transformation: Methods of calculation of value*
- LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Togo
 - Alternate – Mozambique
- PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Guinea
 - Alternate – Cambodia
- 11.45 - 12.45 *LDC group representations and discussion Module 3 – Substantial transformation: Change of tariff classification rules*
- LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Niger
 - Alternate – Bangladesh
- PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Tanzania
 - Alternate – Togo
- 12.45 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.00 *LDC group presentations and discussion Module 4 – Substantial transformation: Specific manufacturing*
- LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Guinea
 - Alternate – Senegal
- PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Niger
 - Alternate – Burkina Faso
- 15.00 - 16.00 *LDC group presentations and discussion Module 5 – Cumulation*
- LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Cambodia
 - Alternate – Togo
- PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Senegal
 - Alternate – Bangladesh

16.00 - 17.00 *LDC group presentations and discussion Module 6 – Documentary requirements*

LDCs Representatives:

- Leader – Burkina Faso
- Alternate – Tanzania

PGCs Representatives:

- Leader – Mozambique
- Alternate – Central African Republic

17.00 - 17.15 Summary of discussion

12 May **Item 5: Discussion of presentations at the next CRO and report to MC 13**

09.00 - 09.15 *Presentation on the UK DCTS*

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

09.15 - 09.30 *Interactive discussion and rehearsal*

WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

09.30 - 10.00 *Evidence from the analysis of URs of China and India*

Egbert Amoncio | UNCTAD

10.00 - 10.30 *Interactive discussion and rehearsal*

WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 - 11.15 *Cumulation procedures and AGOA renewal*

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

11.15 - 11.30 *Interactive discussion and rehearsal*

WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

11.30 - 12.00 *Presentation of next issues for the October CRO (Convergence on PSRO; setting appropriate levels of ad valorem percentage requirements; best practices on certification of rules of origin)*

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

12.00 - 12.30 *The experience of ADB in assisting Asian countries*

Asian Development Bank (ADB) – TBC

12.30 - 13.00 Interactive discussions

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

Item 6: Preparation of the report to MC 13

14.00 - 14.30 *Preparation for the CRO report: A possible table of content*

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

14.30 - 14.45 Interactive discussions

14.45 - 15.15 Coffee break

- 15.15 - 15.45 *The negotiation of the Nairobi Decision: Lessons learned*
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
Darlan Marti | WTO
- 15.45 - 16.00 Interactive discussions
- 16.00 - 16.30 Panel discussions on work ahead and preparations for next CRO meetings and MC13
- 16.30 - 17.00 Concluding discussions