

Workshop

Post- MC-13 preparation for April 2024 CRO Meeting for LDC WTO Group

22 - 23 April 2024

Sala del Consiglio - Villa Salviati, Via Bolognese 156 - Florence

Scientific organiser:

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

Programme

22 April

Opening session

10.10 - 10.20

Opening statement

Paul Akiwumi | Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes,
UNCTAD

10.20 - 10.30

Opening remarks

Coordinator of the LDC Group | World Trade Organization

10.30 - 10.45

Coffee break

Item 1: The outcome of the General Council and MC-13 on Rules of Origin

This session discusses the outcome of the Report of the GC and MC-13 on RoO, the lessons learned and the next steps to be further discussed under Item 3

10.45 - 11.00

Presentation of the workshop and its objectives

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

11.00 - 11.25

The outcome of the CRO Report to GC, implications for LDC group and the possible path ahead

Darlan Marti | World Trade Organization

11.25 - 11.40

Interactive discussions



11.40 - 11.55 Where are we and where are we heading to after MC 13?

Edem Kossi, LDC Core group leader
Elia Mtwewe | Former Chairperson of the CRO

11.55 - 12.15 Interactive discussions

12.15 - 12.35 The salient issues arising from the GC report: Lessons learned and options to move forward

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

12.35 - 13.00 Interactive discussions

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

Item 2: Updates about arising issues on Rules of Origin at multilateral and regional level.

This session discusses the specific RoO issues arising at multilateral and regional level

14.00 - 14.45 Update from discussions and studies in WCO secretariat on best practices for origin certification and ongoing studies

WCO Representatives

14.45 - 15.00 Interactive discussions

15.00 - 15.30 Presentation of recent studies carry out by UNCTAD/ADB on best practices in Asia and Pacific

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
Pramila Crivelli | Asian Development Bank

15.30 - 15.45 Interactive discussions

15.45 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 16.15 Discussion of section 3: improvements to UNCTAD GSP websites

Ludovica Poponcini | UNCTAD
Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD

16.30 - 17.00 Reports from EFTA findings and discussions on Utilization rates

EFTA Secretariat

17.00 - 17.30 Interactive discussions

23 April

Item 3: The topics for next submissions in 2024/2025

This session discusses in depth the forthcoming LDC submissions for the CRO of April and November 2024

10.00 - 10.30 How to push forward the **agenda** on best practices as contained in the mandate of GC report. - Statement of the LDC group of the agenda for the CRO of November and implications for the LDC group

Edem Kossi | LDC Core Group leader
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

10.30 - 10.45 Interactive discussion

10.45 - 11.15 The First LDC Submission on UK utilization rates for the CRO of April 2024

Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
Ludovica Poponcini | UNCTAD

11.15 - 11.30 Interactive discussion

11.30 - 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 - 12.15 The second LDC submission on Convergence on product specific rules of origin for LDCs for the CRO

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

12.15 - 12.30 Interactive discussion

Item 4: Pending issues from Previous submissions

12.30 - 13.00

- Notifications of Preference utilization data: status and updates from China and India
- Updates from India and China Delegations (TBC)

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

Item 4: Continued: Pending issues from Previous submissions

14.00 - 14.30 The issue of utilization versus underutilization of trade preferences – The Cambodia experience and submission to CRO

Cambodia Delegation

14.30 - 14.45 Interactive discussion

Item 5: Setting the preparation for next submissions in November 2024 and 2025

14.45 - 15.30

- Best practices submission
- Preparation for AGOA rules of origin submission
- Cumulation procedures for LDCs
- Setting adequate levels of *ad valorem* percentage requirements
- Other eventual topics for 2024 -2025

15.30 - 16.00 Interactive discussion

16.00 - 16.30 Summary and way forward

- Defining tasks and delegations making presentation for the November meeting
- Preparation for Round table on Rules of origin for LDCs organized by UK/UNCTAD
- Matters arising

16.30 - 17.00 Interactive discussion

17.00 - 18.00 Cocktail