

Workshop

Executive Meeting on Negotiating and Drafting Rules of Origin (RoO) for the LDC WTO Group - April CRO

31 March – 1 April 2025

Palazzo Buontalenti, Via Camillo Cavour, 65

Scientific organiser:

Arancha Gonzalez | EUI

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

MONDAY 31 March 2025

Opening session

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| 10:00 – 10:10 | Opening statement
Paul Akiwumi Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | Opening remarks
Coordinator of the LDC Group World Trade Organization
George Papaconstantinou Acting Director of the Florence School of Transnational Governance |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45 – 11:10 | Presentation of the workshop
Stefano Inama UNCTAD |

ITEM 1: The Convening Notices of the Chairman of the WTO CRO and the Work Ahead

This session discusses the content on the convening notice of the chairman and the work ahead of the CRO.

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| 11:10 – 11:40 | The expectations of the WTO members for the CRO meeting of 3 - 4 of April 2025
Darlan Marti World Trade Organization |
| 11:40 – 12:30 | Interactive discussion |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch break |

ITEM 2: Updates About Matter Arising on Rules of Origin at Multilateral and Regional Level

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

- 13:30 – 14:15 Update from discussions and studies in WCO secretariat on best practices for origin certification and ongoing studies
Demba Seck | World Custom Organization (TBC)
- 14:15 – 14:30 Interactive discussions
- 14:30 – 15:15 Presentation of emerging issues on rules of origins and UNCTAD-ICC survey on non-preferential rules of origin
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
Martin Van Der Merwe | International Chamber of Commerce
- 15:15 – 15:30 Interactive discussion
- 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

ITEM 3: Follow-up on Presentations on Best Practices as Identified by LDCs

This session will present the commentaries and statements that LDCs may raise to the expected statements / presentations of PGM at the CRO and follow up to the discussions held during bilateral consultations

- 15:45 – 16:15 How to push forward the agenda on best practices as contained in the mandate of GC report.
Discussions on the content of the Statement of the LDC at the next CRO of 3-4 April and implications for the LDC group
Edem Kossi | LDC Core Group leader
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 16:15 – 16:30 Interactive discussion
- 16:30 – 16:55 Discussion on follow up and discussions about the setting of the adequate level of *ad valorem* percentage
A.Lawrence Mwalye | Delegation of Zambia
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 16:55 – 17:20 Discussion on possible findings on issues related to technicalities on the deduction of the cost of insurance and freight from the value of non-originating materials
Suos Imsouchivy | Delegation of Cambodia
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 17:20 – 17:45 Discussion on non-alteration principle and the abandoning documentary requirements for through bill of lading, and the certificate of non-manipulation
Durga Bhusal | Delegation of Nepal
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

TUESDAY 1 April 2025

- 10:15 – 10:45 Discussion on the rules based on the change of tariff classification criterion by introducing alternative rules such as *ad valorem* or specific working or processing
Edem Kossi | Delegation of Togo
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 10:45 – 11:15 Discussion on the cumulation provisions and lessons learned from such best practices
Tivo Rasamimanana | Delegation of Madagascar
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 11:15 – 11:35 Coffee break
- 11:35 – 12:30 Discussion on proof of origin and evidence and lessons learned from such best practices
Saikou Baldé | Delegation of Guinea
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

ITEM 4: The Topics for Next Submissions in 2025

This session discusses in depth the forthcoming LDC submissions for the CRO of April and November 2025 on the basis of chairman's convening notices.

- 13:30 – 14:15 Submission and report on the draft study on cumulation funded by UK government
Stefano Inama and Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
Vagen Amoomoogum | UNCTAD consultant
- 14:15 – 14:30 Interactive discussion
- 14:30 – 15:00 Discussion on the delegation expected to present the submission on cumulation and topics of next submissions
WTO LDC Group
- 15:00 – 15:25 Interactive discussion
- 15:25 – 15:40 LDC work ahead
WTO LDC Group
- 15:40 – 15:55 Interactive discussion

ITEM 5: Update on Utilization Rate and GSP website

- 15:55 – 16:25 Discussion on Utilization Rate: the way ahead and work in progress
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 16:25 – 16:40 Coffee break
- 16:40 – 17:10 Improvements to UNCTAD GSP website
Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD and **Serafino Marchese**
- 17:10 – 17:25 Interactive discussion
- 17:25 – 18:15 Cocktail

