CONCEPT NOTE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

4 December 2024
2.00-3.30 PM (CET)
Online

Online Course on Trade Policy Frameworks Webinar 2: Emerging issues in trade policy formulation and implementation

Key Issues

Trade policy formulation has become a complex exercise as various behind-the-border regulatory measures have come to form an integral part of "trade policy" today. This increases the stake of trade policy for national development strategy, especailly at a time when trade is increasingly affected by the expansion of global value chains, rise of industrial policies behind the imperatives of digital and green transitions, and trade fragmentation arising from geo-political tensions.

This session will explore the emerging issues in trade policy formulation and implementation in today's economic environment, in the light of the contents of the online course on trade policy frameworks. These include beyond tariff areas such as services, global value chains and investment.

There will be a special focus on new market access cooperation beyond tariffs and the potential of non-reciprocal trade preferences for achieving such cooperation, drawing on UNCTAD's recent publication Trade Preferences Outlook 2024. This report provides reflections on the possibility of new forms of market access cooperation, which complement trade preferences to foster developing countries' productive and technological capabilities, thereby facilitating their export diversification.

Mr. Craig VanGrasstek will provide his insights on the changing U.S. trade strategy, while at the same time moderate the session, interacting with the panel of experts, and elaborate on some of the key questions arising from the discussion.

Programme

Moderator:
Mr. Craig VanGrasstek, President, Washington Trade Reports, and Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School

Opening: **Ms. Ebru Gökçe Dessemond**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

Commentary**: Placing the changing U.S. trade strategy in context**
by **Mr. Craig VanGrasstek**

Speakers

- **Mr. Pierre Sauvé,** Senior Trade Specialist, The World Bank Group
- **Mr. Derk Bienen,** Economist, Founder and Managing Partner of BKP
- **Ms. Vahini Naidu**, Programme Coordinator, The South Centre
- **Mr. Taisuke Ito**, Chief, Trading Systems Section, UNCTAD