



**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Non-Tariff Measures Week
Mandatory Trade Regulations and Voluntary Sustainability Standards
25-27 September 2017, Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Draft Agenda

Regulations and standards are a main hurdle to trade. Business surveys as well as quantitative assessments show that with falling tariffs, Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) have become the more important impediment to trade. Challenges include costs of compliance and in particular the lack of transparency. At the same time, many regulations and standards provide benefits for consumer protection and other sustainable development objectives.

The Non-Tariff Measures Week sheds light on the importance of NTMs on international trade and development, and shows successful global and regional approaches to tackle the challenges including transparency initiatives and regulatory cooperation.

NTMs include a broad basket of policies that can potentially affect trade. On the one hand, traditional trade policy instruments, such as quotas or price controls (often termed non-tariff barriers), still persist in some sectors. On the other hand, a wide array of regulatory measures address, inter alia, health and environmental protection (Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and Technical Barriers to Trade), post-sales services, rules of origin, government procurement and intellectual property. In the 21st century, such regulatory measures are a central focus in trade agreements and have a bigger impact on trade than traditional barriers. They are however also more complex and the line between legitimate public policy objectives and protectionism is blurred.

The Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) developed a taxonomy for the International Classification of NTMs, which became a common language for the international trade community, including for researchers, regional and international organizations as well as governments. This was the first step towards enhancing transparency and understanding of NTMs. Significant effort has also been made in the subsequent global and comprehensive mapping of NTMs by UNCTAD and its partners. The current NTMs database covers more than 80 per cent of world trade.

The Meeting follows up on the September 2015 and October 2016 Expert Meetings on NTMs Classification to take stock of the policy agenda and the further development and revision of the NTMs taxonomy. The meeting aims at a revised version of the International Classification on Non-Tariff Measures. The focus of the first two days is on mandatory NTMs, followed by one day on Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS). All interested participants are welcome to the NTMs week.

MAST group members:



**NTMs Week and MAST meeting
25–26 September 2017 - Room XXV**

Monday, 25 September 2017

9.30–10 a.m. Coffee and Registration

10–10.15 a.m. Opening remarks

How do NTMs link to economic, social and environmental objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda?

- **Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD**

**10.15 a.m.–
12 noon Policy Debate: the Role of Transparency in Trade-Related Regulations**

High-level policy makers and experts discuss transparency in trade-related regulation. Which information do SMEs, policy makers, and trade negotiators need, and what is missing? How can trade costs be reduced while allowing for consumer and environmental protection? What is the outlook on transparency and regulatory cooperation in the multilateral trading system?

Chair: Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Panel

- **H.E. Mr. Héctor Antonio Casanueva Ojeda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO and UNCTAD**
- **H.E. Mr. Moshe Kao, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the UN**
- **Mr. Paolo Garzotti, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of the EU**
- **Ms. Anabel Gonzalez, Senior Director, Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness, World Bank**
- **Mr. Robert Koopman, Chief Economist and Director of the Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO**
- **Ms. Marion Jansen, Chief Economist, ITC**

**12 noon–
1 p.m.**

Global and Regional Initiatives on NTMs Transparency and Regulatory Cooperation

Global and regional organizations from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America share their experiences. Which lessons can be learnt from their efforts to enhance transparency on NTMs and approaches to address regulatory divergence and non-tariff barriers?

Chair: Mr. Bonapas Onguglo, Head, Trade Analysis Branch (TAB), UNCTAD

Panel

- **Mr. César Llona, Under Secretary-General, ALADI**
- **Ms. Victoria Francolino, Deputy Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO and UNCTAD**
- **Ms. Lili Yan Ing, Senior Economist of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia**
- **Mr. Ralf Peters, Chief, Trade Information Section, TAB, UNCTAD**

Lunch break

3–4.30 p.m.

Boosting Sustainable Development: Impact of NTMs and Policy Responses

Leading experts present new evidence on NTMs and how they affect international trade, economic growth and ultimately sustainable development. The discussion will also cover optimal policy responses and international rules governing NTMs.

Chair: Mr. Michael Ferrantino, Lead Economist, World Bank

Panel

- Mr. Olivier Cadot, Professor, University of Lausanne
- Mr. Jaime de Melo, Professor Emeritus, University of Geneva, and FERDI
- Mr. Marcelo Olarreaga, Dean, Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva
- Mr. Alessandro Nicita, Chief, Research Section, TAB, UNCTAD

4.30-6 p.m.

NTMs and Economic Integration: Why do trade regulations matter?

How can policy makers support regional integration and economic development by addressing NTMs in a smart way? New research and case studies are presented for different countries and regions.

Chair: Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director and Officer-in-Charge of the Trade Division, UNCTAD

- Mr. Joseph Francois, Professor and Director, World Trade Institute
- Mr. José Manuel Campos, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Chile to WTO and Chair of the WTO TBT Committee
- Ms. Vonesai Hove, East African Community
- Mr. Christian Knebel, Economist, Trade Analysis Branch, UNCTAD

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

10 a.m.–
1 p.m.

The International Classification of NTMs: State of Play for Revision

Chairs of the six working groups present the newly developed or revised chapters of the International Classification to lay the ground for improved transparency of a wider range of NTMs.

Chair: Mr. Alan Winters, Professor, University of Sussex

General (Chapter A-I, P):

- Mr. Samuel Munyaneza, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

Post-Sales Services and Distribution:

- Mr. Aaditya Mattoo, Research Manager, World Bank, or Mr. Juan Marchetti, Counsellor, WTO (tbc)

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- Mr. Marc Bacchetta, Counsellor, WTO

Government Procurement:

- Mr. Julien Gourdon, Trade Policy Analyst, OECD

Intellectual Property:

- Mr. Christoph Spennemann, Legal Officer and OIC Intellectual Property Unit, UNCTAD
-

Rules of Origin:

- **Mr. Mondher Mimouni, Chief, Market Analysis and Research, ITC**

Lunch Break

3–4.30 p.m. Break-out Sessions: Expert Working Group Meetings, cont.

4.30–6 p.m. Revised Classification and Adoption

Chair: Mr. Ralf Peters, Chief, Trade Information Section, TAB, UNCTAD

MAST members and observers adopt the revision of the International Classification of NTMs

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

2.45–6 p.m. Voluntary Sustainability Standards, Market Access and Trade-Led Sustainable Development

Policy Makers and Experts focus on voluntary standards
