



## UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

### Non-tariff Measures Week NTMs: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

14–15 October 2019, Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

#### Draft agenda

Non-tariff measures and regulatory policies are at the centre of global trade talks, affecting some 90% of world trade and all areas of our everyday lives. Meeting these complex and often opaque rules requires significant resources. Reducing associated costs while ensuring the beneficial effects of those measures addressing public policy objectives requires regulatory cooperation at the regional and multilateral level. However, the first quarter of 2019 saw a surge in trade tension and protectionist impulses. To open the discussion on the topic of regulatory cooperation and design of NTMs as a tool to foster market access and sustainable development, UNCTAD will host the fifth Non-Tariff Measures week and Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) meeting on 14-15 October 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The annual Non-Tariff Measures Week is a platform for policymakers and researchers to discuss the link between NTMs and the latest items which top the news agenda: trade wars, e-commerce, transparency, and sustainable development.

Sessions will discuss the role and impact of:

- Policy initiatives around national and regional regulatory coherence and cooperation
- Trade wars beyond tariffs
- International standard-setting bodies
- Interlinkage of NTMs and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific
- Reporting and eliminating 'ugly' NTMs
- Transparency in trade regulations
- African Continental Free Trade Area
- Classification of NTMs and MAST group

<http://unctad.org/ntmsweek>

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Twitterhashtag: #NTMweek

#### Multi-Agency Support Team members



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**Monday, 14 October 2019**

**09-10 a.m. Registration and Coffee**

**10–10.15 a.m. Opening remarks**

Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

**10.15 a.m.–  
12.00 p.m. Policy debate: How to strengthen regulatory cooperation**

The session examines the potential and possible instruments to strengthen regulatory cooperation at the regional and multilateral level for the achievement of sustainable development.

Chair: Mr. Guillermo Valles, Ambassador, Special Advisor at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay

- **Mr. Sergio Mujica, Secretary General, ISO**
- **Mr. Paolo Garzotti, Deputy Head, EU Mission to the WTO**
- **Mr. Pascal Schafhauser, Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA**
- **Mr. Antoine Sautenet, Public Affairs Manager, Michelin**
- **Ms. Susan Stone, Head of Division, Emerging Policy Issues, OECD**

**12 p.m.–  
1 p.m. Navigating Non-Tariff Measures towards Sustainable Development**

Amid the escalating tension in global trade, many countries in Asia and the Pacific are concerned that NTMs may be used as protectionist tools and non-transparent barriers to trade. The *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019* analyses the rise of NTMs in this region, reviews the costs and benefits associated with the NTMs from a sustainable development perspective, and identifies good practices to ensure that NTMs serve their legitimate social or environmental purposes while not unnecessarily and negatively affecting trade and investment.

The *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019* is the flagship report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations, in 2019, jointly published with UNCTAD.

- **Ms. Mia Mikic, Director of the Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division, UNESCAP**
- **Mr. Ralf Peters, Chief, Trade Information Section, UNCTAD**
- **Mr. Mike Webb, New Zealand Permanent Mission to WTO**
- **Mr. Senal A. Weerasooriya, Department of Agricultural Economics & Business Management, University of Peradeniya**

**Lunch break** Sandwiches served

**2 p.m. –** **Spearheading Non-Tariff Barriers reporting and resolution in the African Continental Free Trade Area**

**3 p.m.**

The African Continental Free Trade Area aims at “Creating One African Market” of more than 1.2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of US\$2.5 trillion. On 30 May 2019, the African Continental Free Trade Area entered into force after more than 22 member States ratified the deal.

A key feature of the African Continental Free Trade Area is an ambitious non-tariff barriers (NTBs) reporting, monitoring and eliminating mechanism. Any company can report NTBs on an online platform. Government officials will receive NTB complaints in real-time and are mandated by the African Continental Free Trade Area Non-Tariff Barriers Annex to resolve barriers within given deadlines. What are the opportunities and challenges of the mechanism? What can the rest of the world learn from it?

Chair: Mr. Christian Knebel, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

- **Dr. Oswald Chinyamakobvu, Senior Technical Advisor, African Union Commission**
- **Mr. Justin Bayili, Executive Secretary, Borderless Alliance**
- **Ms. Kuenta Kolapo, Programme Management Officer, UNCTAD**
- **Mr. Komi Tsowou, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, African Trade Policy Centre, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**

**3 p.m. –** **The role of NTM within a region: Strengthening regional cooperation and deep integration for sustainable development**

**4.30 p.m.**

Regional and multilateral cooperation can lower trade costs while maintaining regulatory benefits such as the protection of health and the environment.

This session brings together experts and practitioners to share experiences on how cooperation can achieve better trade integration, improving efficiency and promoting sustainable development.

Chair: Ms. Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, OiC Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UN ECE

- **Dr. Oswald Chinyamakobvu, Senior Technical Advisor, African Union Commission**
- **Mr. Gary C. Martin, President, International Grain Trade Coalition**
- **Mr. Christian Leroux, Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración, ALADI**
- **Mr. Vahagn Ghazaryan, Deputy Director Trade Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission**
- **Mr. Philip Ponce, Permanent Mission of Peru**

4.30 p.m. –  
6 p.m.

**International standards-setting bodies: international regulatory cooperation, harmonization and transparency in standards setting**

Multilateral agreements recognize the importance of international standards in facilitating trade and research confirms their potential beneficial effects. However, the proliferation of international standards has important implications for businesses, especially for SMEs. This session discusses challenges of the public and private sector to coordinate the development and to comply with international standards.

- **Mr. Henry Cuschieri, Head of Membership and External Relations, ISO**
- **Ms. Gracia Brisco, Food Standards Officer, Codex Alimentarius, FAO**
- **Mr. Farid Amirov, Head of Regulation of Food Safety and Protection of Consumer Rights, Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **Mr. Devin Mc Daniels, Economic Affairs Officer, WTO**
- **Mr. Ralf Peters, Chief, Trade Information Section, UNCTAD**

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**Tuesday, 15 October 2019**

**10–11.30**      **E-Commerce and Trade Regulations**

**a.m.**

This session will examine challenges in complying with non-tariff measures for traders especially SMEs in developing countries while selling through cross-border e-commerce sales channels. The session will aim to answer some questions including: Do rules that apply to traditional transactions apply also to e-commerce? What are trade related regulations that hinder the trader's ability to participate in e-commerce? How do customs deal with compliance with trade regulations on several millions of small parcels? Are regulations a main obstacle and what is the role of trade facilitation in strengthening e-commerce?

Chair: Torbjorn Fredriksson, Chief, e-Commerce Programme, UNCTAD

- **Mr. Alejandro Gamboa-Alder, WTO**
- **Ms. Marilyn Guinet, Administration fédérale des douanes, Switzerland**
- **Mr. Steven Pope, DHL**
- **Ms. Arantzazu Sanchez, Trade facilitation Section, UNCTAD**
- **Ms. Nivedita Sen, World Economic Forum**

**11.30 a.m.–**      **Trade tensions: wars beyond tariffs**

**1 p.m.**

While tariffs are the most visible instrument for which ongoing trade confrontations have been fought, the role of non-tariff measures as a protectionist and retaliatory instruments remains unclear. This session will discuss non-tariff measures in the context of ongoing trade tensions and how these policy actions fit into the multilateral framework.

Chair: Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Director, International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

- **Mr. Alan Winters, Professor of Economics and Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory, University of Sussex**
  - **Mr. Manfred Elsig, Professor and Deputy Managing Director, World Trade Institute, University of Bern**
  - **Ms. Cherise Valles, Deputy Director, Advisory Centre on WTO Law**
  - **Mr. Piotr Lukaszuk, Global Trade Alert, University of St. Gallen**
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