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## ONLINE COURSE

### TRADE IN SERVICES

13 NOVEMBER - 17 DECEMBER 2023

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With the financial support of the European Union

### PROSPECTUS

#### Background

Under the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II, Commercial Diplomacy Component, UNCTAD assists the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Angola in building capacity in trade policy formulation and trade negotiations in multilateral, inter-regional and regional contexts.

Angola will soon negotiate with the EU its accession to the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to liberalize trade in goods (and potentially services) on a reciprocal but asymmetric basis, thereby replacing unilateral trade preferences that have characterized Angola-EU trade relationship over the past 50 years. The negotiation presents a particular challenge for Angola, an LDC, as the country is expected to accept existing EPA provisions while undertaking its own market opening towards imports from the EU.

Article 72 of the SADC-EU EPA is titled “Trade in Services” and refers to the parties’ “...commitment regarding services in Articles 41 to 43 of the Cotonou Agreement and their respective rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (‘GATS’).” Paragraph 1 of Article 73 states that, “The Parties may negotiate trade in services to extend the scope of this Agreement”. In addition, within the AfCFTA there is also a Trade in Services Protocol that State Parties agree to “progressively liberalize trade in services across the African continent on the basis of equity, balance and mutual benefit, by eliminating barriers to trade in services [Art 3(2)(e)]. Against this backdrop, it is important for Angola to be prepared for future negotiations, whether at the WTO or at the continental level, in such a way as to maximize potential benefits and minimize costs from any future outcomes in this area.

To enhance the knowledge and capacities of trade officials and other stakeholders in Angola in the area of trade in services, UNCTAD developed this self-paced, Portuguese language, online training course on trade in services. The course will be hosted on the Angola knowledge hub of the UNCTAD eLearning platform. A webinar will be organized on 23 November 2023, during which course participants and other interested officials will have an opportunity to interact with Mr. Luiz Eduardo Salles, the principal course instructor, and other guest speakers. There will be interpretation from Portuguese to English and vice versa. The course will be offered over a period of five weeks from **13 November to 17 December 2023**.

## Objectives

The main objective of the online course is to promote a better understanding of basic concepts relating to trade in services and their implications for Angola in terms of how Angola can make the best use of Article 72 of the SADC-EU EPA and AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Services. The online course targets trade officials and negotiators from Angola and will remain a permanent source for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to consult when needed. The course aims to support Angola in negotiating Trade in Services provisions in future Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and undertaking Trade in Services reforms arising from their obligations under RTAs/WTO negotiations or implementation of other commitments under regional or multilateral arrangements.

A detailed description of the course content and timetable is provided in the annex.

## Target audience and course prerequisites

This online course and the webinar are in response to a request from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MINDCOM) in the context of the EU-UNCTAD Joint Programme for Angola: Train for Trade II. It is specifically designed to support the members of the Technical Group working on the EU-SADC EPA negotiations, the National Trade Negotiations Commission, Government officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and officials from other Ministries responsible for issues relevant to services trade policymaking. To successfully complete the course activities, participants should plan to devote around two hours a week to the course.

The course contains five modules and there will be a quiz after each module. The participants need to pass the quizzes to be able to move on to the following module.

## Certificate of completion

Participants with passing quiz grades in the course will receive a certificate of completion.

## Application information and deadline

The deadline for application is **10 November 2023**. Applications can be submitted by accessing the course on the [UNCTAD e-learning platform for Angola](#).

For assistance with the online application process, please contact [elarningtrade@un.org](mailto:elarningtrade@un.org).

Requests for further information or clarification about this course should be sent to:

Ms. Carolina Quintana  
Trading Systems, Services and Creative Economy Branch  
Division on International Trade and Commodities  
UNCTAD  
Email: [carolina.quintana@unctad.org](mailto:carolina.quintana@unctad.org)

## **Annex: Content and timetable of the course**

The course is composed of five modules:

**Module 1. Trade in services for economic transformation and diversification:** This module will address questions such as:

- What is a “service”?
- What is “trade in services”?
- How can trade in services benefit the economy?
- What is structural transformation?
- Why is economic diversification important?
- How can services contribute to transformation and diversification?

**Module 2. The international legal framework for trade in services:** This module will elaborate on the WTO rules and the GATS Agreement (e.g. market access, national treatment, liberalization, etc.) and preferential trade agreements such as SADC- EU EPA.

**Module 3. Policies to enhance national supply capacity in services:** This module will explain the role of regulation and policy considerations in enhancing national services supply capacity, including, for example sound regulatory and institutional frameworks, regional cooperation, skills development, strengthening data ecosystem, etc.

**Module 4. Trade in services negotiations life cycle:** This module will elaborate on the life cycle of services negotiations, scheduling approaches and binding techniques with regard to trade in services.

**Module 5. Trade in services negotiations involving Angola:** This module will provide an overview of trade in services initiatives involving Angola and the main negotiating disciplines and initiatives within the framework of the WTO, SADC and AfCFTA.

**Webinar:** There will be a webinar on 23 November 2023 with the instructor of the course and other speakers.

**Quizzes:** To successfully complete the course, participants are required to pass a multiple-choice quiz (passing grade is 60 over 100) after each module to be able to move on to the following module.

**Internet:** An Internet connection is required to access the online course modules and complete the quizzes, and to participate in the discussions in the forum and at the live online sessions.

**Certificate:** Once participants complete all the modules, pass the quizzes and complete the two surveys, they will be able to download their certificates on the course platform.

## Timetable for the course

Dates	Title	Content
<b>Week 1:</b> <b>13-19 November 2023</b>	Module 1. Trade in services for economic transformation and diversification	Definition of a “service”: role of trade in services in economic development, structural transformation and economic diversification.
<b>Week 2:</b> <b>20-26 November 2023</b>	Module 2. The international legal framework for trade in services	Overview of WTO rules, GATS Agreement (e.g. market access, national treatment, liberalization, etc.) and preferential trade agreements such as SADC- EU EPA.
<b>WEBINAR:</b> <b>23 November 2023</b>	Webinar on trade in services and services negotiations.	Interaction with the course instructor; question and answers.
<b>Week 3:</b> <b>27 November - 3 December 2023</b>	Module 3. Policies to enhance national supply capacity in services.	The role of regulation and policy considerations in enhancing national services supply capacity
<b>Week 4:</b> <b>4-10 December 2023</b>	Module 4. Trade in services negotiations life cycle.	The life cycle of services negotiations, scheduling approaches and binding techniques.
<b>Week 5:</b> <b>11-17 December 2023</b>	Module 5. Trade in services negotiations involving Angola.	Overview of the main negotiating disciplines and initiatives involving Angola within the framework of the WTO, SADC and AfCFTA.