

7th UNCTAD Trade Policy Dialogue:

Tear down this wall: Challenges with trade-related regulations

Tuesday, 31 August 2021, WEBINAR, 10–11 a.m. CET

PROGRAMME

KEY ISSUES

Trade-related regulations including technical regulations (SPS, TBT) protecting safety, health and the environment are needed and increasingly used - but also generate trade costs that are three times higher than tariffs.

These Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) can also become Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) if they intend to affect trade or are poorly implemented. Small economies and companies as well as vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected.

Actions at three levels can address these challenges:

1. Transparency can reduce NTM related costs by about 25 per cent. UNCTAD collects with partners and member States data on NTMs that are made publicly available for policy makers and traders to facilitate trade (<https://trainsonline.unctad.org> and <https://globaltradehelpdesk.org>).
2. NTBs that plague traders such as customs clearance delays should be addressed. Africa's gains from the AfCFTA could be increased 3-to-4-fold if NTBs are seriously addressed. The AfCFTA NTB Mechanism <https://tradebarriers.africa> answers to this challenge. Any company can report NTBs and government focal points monitor and resolve barriers.
3. Reducing the divergence of regulations can reduce costs again by 25 per cent. Regulatory cooperation may be an instrument to lower trade costs, without undercutting the attainment of regulatory objectives. In cases where regulatory institutions have very different capacities, technical assistance can support.

The webinar will focus on transparency and regulatory cooperation efforts in Asia, Europe and Latin America and the global leadership of Africa's AfCFTA NTB resolution mechanism.

AGENDA

Opening

Ms. Miho Shirotori, OIC, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Moderator

Mr. Ralf Peters, Chief, Trade Information Section, UNCTAD

Keynote speaker

H.E. Mr. Sergio Abreu Bonilla, Secretary General, ALADI

Speakers

- Mr. Silver Ojakol, Chief of Staff, AfCFTA Secretariat
- Ms. Mariam Gabunia, Head of Department of Foreign Trade and International Economic Relations, Ministry of Economic Development, Georgia
- Mr. Anh Duong Nguyen, Director, Department for General Economic Issues and Integration Studies, Central Institute for Economic Management, Viet Nam
- Mr. Kalybekov Kutman, Head of ICT Department - "Single Window" Center for Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Kyrgyz Republic
- Mr. Cameron Reid, A/g Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic and Trade Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Discussion

Closing remarks



Please click [HERE](#) to register