UNCTAD/ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK (EIF) SECRETARIAT PROGRAM OF WEBINARS ON DUTY-FREE QUOTA-FREE MARKET ACCESS FOR LDCS: HOW TO USE THE UNCTAD HANDBOOK AND DATABASE ON GSP UTILIZATION

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Within the framework of multilateral, trade-related technical assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Executive Secretariat of the EIF have distributed the two latest volumes of the Handbook On Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access and Rules of Origin For Least Developed Countries through the EIF Focal Points/NIU Coordinators to relevant national stakeholders, including representatives from the private sector, trade promotion agencies, and major exporting companies, among others.

To assist all LDCs to make informed use of these publications, UNCTAD and the EIF Secretariat are organizing virtual sessions to explain their content, with a view to facilitating the utilization of such trade preferences. In total, 16 webinars will be organized: 9 will be conducted in English, 6 in French and 1 in English/Portuguese. Each LDC (see table on the next page for an alphabetical list of invited countries) will be assigned to a group based on its preferred working language.

Each webinar will consist of 2 sessions of around 1 hour and 30 minutes each. The webinars will take place using MS Teams, Webex or Zoom. During the first session, the requirements that exporters need to fulfill in order to benefit from the duty-free quota-free initiative, as well as the use of the UNCTAD Database on GSP Utilization will be covered. At the end of the session, 20 minutes will be devoted to questions and answers, and to the distribution of a few exercises to be carried out by the participants individually between the two sessions. In the second session, these exercises will be reviewed, other relevant online resources will be presented with hands-on examples followed by a final series of questions and answers.

It is proposed to organize the webinars based on the following tentative schedule:

Group	Lang	First session	Second session	Countries	No. of countries
A	Е	Mo, 15 March	Wd, 17 March	Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia	3
В	Е	Tu, 16 March	Th, 18 March	Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR	3
С	F	Mo, 22 March	Wd, 24 March	Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo	4
D	F	Tu, 23 March	Th, 25 March	Chad, Mali, Senegal	3
Е	Е	Mo, 29 March	Wd, 31 March	Afghanistan, Nepal	2
F	Е	Tu, 30 March	Th, 1 April	Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	3
G	Е	Tu, 6 April	Th, 8 April	Bangladesh, Myanmar, Timor-Leste	3
Н	F	Mo, 12 April	Wd, 14 April	Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar	3
I	Е	Tu, 13 April	Th, 15 April	Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen	3
J	Е	Mo, 19 April	Wd, 21 April	Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan	3
K	Е	Tu, 20 April	Th, 22 April	Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone	3
L	F	Mo, 26 April	Th, 28 April	Guinea, Mauritania	2
M	F	Tu, 27 April	Th, 29 April	Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo	3
N	Е	Mo, 3 May	Wd, 5 May	Kiribati, Solomon Island, Tuvalu	3
О	F	Tu, 4 May	Th, 6 May	Haiti	1
P	E/P	Mo, 10 May	Wd, 12 May	Angola, Guinea-Bissau,	4
				Mozambique, Sao Tome and	
				Principe	
Total	16				46

Appendix: List of LDCs, preferred language, proposed Group

No.	Country	Lang	Group	Time Diff. GVA
1	Afghanistan	Е	Е	+3:30
2	Angola	E/P	P	+++++
3	Bangladesh	Е	G	+5:00
4	Benin	F	С	+++++
5	Bhutan	Е	В	+5:00
6	Burkina Faso	F	С	-1:00
7	Burundi	F	M	+1:00
8	Cambodia	Е	В	+6:00
9	Central African Republic	F	M	+6:00
10	Chad	F	D	+++++
11	Comoros	F	Н	+2:00
12	Democratic Republic of the Congo	F	M	+++++
13	Djibouti	F	Н	+2:00
14	Eritrea	Е	J	+2:00
15	Ethiopia	Е	I	+2:00
16	Gambia	Е	K	-1:00
17	Guinea	F	L	-1:00
18	Guinea-Bissau	E/P	P (L?)	-1:00
19	Haiti	F	O	-6:00
20	Kiribati	Е	N	+11:00
21	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Е	В	+6:00
22	Lesotho	Е	Α	+1:00
23	Liberia	Е	K	-1:00
24	Madagascar	F	Н	+2:00
25	Malawi	Е	A	+1:00
26	Mali	F	D	-1:00
27	Mauritania	F	L	-1:00
28	Mozambique	E/P	P	+1:00
29	Myanmar	Е	G	+5:00
30	Nepal	Е	Е	+4:00
31	Niger	Е	С	+++++
32	Rwanda	Е	F	+1:00
33	Sao Tome and Principe	E/P	P	-1:00
34	Senegal	F	D	-1:00
35	Sierra Leone	Е	K	-1:00
36	Solomon Islands	Е	N	+10:00
37	Somalia	Е	J	+2:00
38	South Sudan	Е	J	+2:00
39	Sudan	Е	I	+1:00
40	Timor-Leste	Е	G	+8:00
41	Togo	F	С	-1:00
42	Tuvalu	Е	N	+11:00
43	Uganda	Е	F	+2:00
44	United Republic of Tanzania	Е	F	+2:00
45	Yemen	Е	I	+2:00
46	Zambia	Е	A	+1:00