

Executive Workshop

Executive workshop on rules of origin for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

11 October 2022

Sala Triaria - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

Scientific organisers:

Bernard Hoekman | European University Institute

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

Introduction

UNCTAD, in partnership with the Global Governance Programme, part of the Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute (EUI), has developed a research and capacity building programme specifically tailored to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This programme has been instrumental in supporting the WTO LDC group to the Nairobi Decision on preferential rules of origin for LDCs. UNCTAD and the EUI are carrying out applied research, and developing tools to assist LDC delegates to better participate and lead the work of the WTO committee on rules of origin. The research aims at identifying best practices and lessons learnt on rules of origin and related administrative procedures leading to an increase in the utilisation of trade preferences, and understanding the extent of differences in rules of origin across preference giving countries.

The programme has developed a website with the aim to enhance transparency in monitoring the use of trade preferences, and applying trade facilitation concepts to rules of origin certification procedures. Activities include executive roundtables as well as advocacy actions to provide policymakers, firms, and civil society with fora to discuss groundbreaking issues and innovative tools on rules of origin and their administration. Accordingly, in partnership with the EUI, UNCTAD is organising an executive training workshop on rules of origin for the Least Developed Countries (LDC). Leading regional representatives from Africa and Asia will participate in the sessions.

Programme

10.00 - 10.30 Welcome

Bernard Hoekman | European University Institute
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

10.30 - 11.00 Background and progress from the Nairobi Decision and MC 12: Presentation and discussion on First LDC Submission – Proposal for a work programme in Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO)

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
Elia Mtwewe | Counsellor, Tanzania Mission



- 11.00 - 13.00 Presentation and discussion on the Second LDC Submission – Analysis on the United Kingdom Developing Countries Trading Scheme (UK DCTS) Rules of Origin
- Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD
Elia Mtwewe | Counsellor, Tanzania Mission
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 - 14.30 Updates from the WTO
- Darlan Marti** | WTO
- 14.30 - 15.00 Presentation and discussion on future LDC submission to the CRO: The case of China and India
- Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 15.00 - 15.30 Discussion on possible proposal on Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) Rules of Origin
- Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 17.00 Updates on UNCTAD websites: GSP and AfCFTA Tariff websites
- Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD
Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
- 17.00 - 18.00 Cocktail