

## Workshop

# Facilitation of transit, transport and trade in West Africa for better value chain participation (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger)

**5 - 7 December 2022**

Online and Cappella - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

**Bernard Hoekman** | European University Institute

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

## Introduction

The objective of the workshop is to present the project activities carried out in 2022, present and agree on a coordinated implementation of future deliverables for the year 2023 for the successful implementation of the project on transit, transport and trade facilitation in West Africa.

The overall objective of the project is the development of a sub-regional strategy for the updating and implementation of regional conventions on transit issues (i.e., ISRT), including specific transit-related issues that fall under the umbrella of transport and trade facilitation (TFA), coordinated at two levels:

1. Coordination at the national level in the three beneficiary countries between the various governmental and private sector actors involved, including the Ministries of Commerce, Transport, and Planning, and the Chamber of Commerce and other private sector actors (e.g., transporters, shippers, freight forwarders, etc.)
2. Sub-regional coordination among the three beneficiary countries of specific priority actions to be undertaken on transit issues, including transport, and the implementation of specific articles of the TFA relating to transit according to the recommendations of the action matrices of their respective Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) within the general framework of the support provided by the World Bank's Trade Facilitation West Africa Program (TFWA)

## Programme

---

### 5 December **Welcome**

10.15 - 10.45 **Bernard Hoekman** | Director, Global Economics, European University Institute

**Paul Akiwumi** | Africa and Least Developed Countries Division Director, UNCTAD

**Annette Ssemuwemba** | EIF, Deputy Executive Director

#### **Item 1: Project implementation: what has been delivered in 2022, what will be delivered in 2023 and beyond**

*This session aims to outline the 2022 achievements and future deliverables for the implementation of the project on transit, transport, and trade facilitation in West Africa.*

10.45 - 11.15 An overview of the implementation status of the project: future challenges and opportunities

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

11.15 - 11.45 In-depth review of national consultations and survey approach: similarities and differences between Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

11.45 - 12.30 Group discussion

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

#### **Item 2: Pillar 1 of the project in West Africa: from proposing the revision of the text of the new convention on interstate road transit (ISRT) to conducting practice reforms on cross-border transport issues**

*The purpose of this session is to reflect on the revision of the ISRT text and the concrete proposals of the project while integrating the advances of SIGMAT in the regional transit coordination mechanisms.*

14.00 - 14.45 *Item 2A* – The regional dimension of transit: avenues of reflection resulting from the critical analysis of the Additional Act and the Regulation establishing the ECOWAS Community Transit System (updated Regional Convention on Inter-State Road Transit (ISRT)).

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

*Item 2B* – Integrating SIGMAT advances to improve regional transit coordination: What options should be pursued to help strengthen integration and enable effective implementation of the new ECOWAS customs transit regime?

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

14.45 - 15.00 A roadmap to support Customs connectivity through SIGMAT between the Ouagadougou-Lomé corridor and Niamey-Cotonou

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 - 16.00 Update on TFWA program support to ECOWAS SIGMAT regional deployment

**Christel Annequin** | TFWA Program, World Bank

16.00 - 16.30 The Customs Aspects of SIGMAT: assessment of automation of transit procedures

*The Benin experience: Benin Customs*

**Jean-Marc Benoit** | ASYCUDA Regional Coordinator

16.30 - 17.00 Group discussion

### **6 December** **Item 3: West African project pillar 2: a sub-regional strategy on land transport**

*The aim of this session is to take stock of the results of the national workshops on road transport regulation and to present the delivery of the study on the convergence of transport regulations to allow a discussion on coordinated action at sub-regional level.*

10.00 - 10.40 The Actors of the convergence of transport regulations at the sub-regional level for Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger.

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

10.40 - 11.30 Proposal for a model legal framework for the transport sector for WAEMU and ECOWAS

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

11.30 - 12.30 Transport Industry Players: Results of National Training on Contract of Carriage, Calculation of Transport Costs and Tariffs, Incoterms and Insurance

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

12.30 - 13.00 Group discussion and debate

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

### **Item 4: West Africa Project Pillar 3: Status of implementation of transit issues in the Trade Facilitation and Single Windows Agreement**

*The objective of this session is to present a methodological approach for the coordinated implementation of TFA articles identified as priorities for the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.*

14.00 - 14.30 Presentation of a methodological approach for the coordinated implementation of TFA articles identified as priorities

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

14.30 - 15.00 Perspectives of single windows: overview of national consultations and survey approach

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

**Item 5: Pillar 4 of the West Africa project: Concept and definition of a joint border post (JBP): focus on the Cinkassé and Malanville juxtaposed checkpoint**

*The objective of this session is to provide an update on activities related to joint border posts.*

15.00 - 15.30 Update on joint border posts activities: UNCTAD

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

15.30 - 16.00 Conclusion of the day

**7 December**

10.00 - 10.30 Preparation of Togo's proposal for inclusion and request for extension to the EIF until December 2023: the merits of our approach and the actions to be taken by the Focal Points, UNCTAD and stakeholders

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

10.30 - 11.00 Speech by the Chairman of the EIF Council, Togo Ambassador, Togo Focal Point

11.00 - 11.30 The major advantages and benefits of the participation of the Togo in the project

**Jean Acri** | International consultant

11.30 - 12.30 Group discussion

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.00 Awareness of project activities, deliverables, lessons learned and the way forward

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

15.00 - 15.30 Action Plan 2023

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

15.30 - 16.00 Group Discussion

16.00 - 16.15 Conclusion

16.15 - 18.00 Cocktail