

## Executive workshop

# Preparation for the October 2023 CRO Meeting for LDC WTO Group

**3 - 4 October 2023**

Cappella - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

Organiser:

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

## Programme

### 3 October

#### Opening Session

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome

**Bernard Hoekman** | Director of Global Economics, European University Institute

10.10 - 10.20 Opening statement by **Paul Akiwumi** | Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

10.20 - 10.30 Opening remarks by the **Coordinator of the LDC Group**, WTO

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break

#### **Item 1: The status of preparation for the report on Rules of origin to General Council and MC13**

*This session is intended to provide an overview of the status of the negotiations in the CRO about the report to MC 13.*

10.45 - 11.00 Presentation of the workshop and its objectives

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

**Bernard Hoekman** | Director of Global Economics, European University Institute

11.00 - 11.25 The status of the draft secretariat report and the possible path ahead

**Marti Darlan** | WTO

11.25 - 11.40 Interactive discussions



11.40 - 11.55 Where are we and where are we heading to for MC 13?

**Elia Mtweve** | Chairperson of the CRO

11.55 - 12.15 Interactive discussions

12.15 - 12.35 The salient issues arising from the ongoing consultation about the draft report

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

12.35 - 13.00 Interactive discussions

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

## **Item 2: The content of the draft report and the way forward**

***This session is intended to discuss the specific sections of draft report for MC 13 and the way forward comparing the different draft reports.***

14.00 - 14.45 Discussions on the introduction and section 1 of the draft reports: Implementation of the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Decisions

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

**Regina Ledesma** | UNCTAD

14.45 - 15.00 Interactive discussions

15.00 - 15.30 Discussion on Section 2. *Documentary requirements*

- Proof of origin
- Trade facilitation measures for small consignments including exemptions from proof of origin
- Documentary evidence for direct consignment

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

**Regina Ledesma** | UNCTAD

15.30 - 15.30 Interactive discussions

15.45 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 16.30 Discussion of section 3: Progress made on preferences utilization: the notification of preferences tariffs and analysis of preference utilization rate

- Notification of preferential tariffs and preferential import statistics
- Linking preference utilization rates and preferential rules of origin

16.30 - 17.00 Comments and interactive discussions

## 4 October

### Item 3: Continued - The content of the draft report and the way forward

10.00 - 10.30 Discussion of section 3 : Progress made on preferences utilization: the notification of preferences tariffs and analysis of preference utilization rate

- Modality for the calculation of the utilization rates :The issue of utilization versus underutilization of trade preferences
- Preference utilization by LDCs

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

10.30 - 11.00 Interactive discussion

11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 - 11.45 Discussion of section 4: Way Forward

11.45 - 12.00 Interactive discussions

### Item 4: Considerations of various options to finalize the draft report to GC and MC 13 for further discussions at October CRO meetings

12.00 - 13.00 Coming back to the report and the way forward for the work of the CRO 2024-2025: a possible roadmap and timelines

**Group discussion led by Tanzania and Togo and Stefano Inama**

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

### Item 5: Items for further discussions at October CRO meetings

14.00 - 14.30 Policy issues for LDCs emerging from analysis of utilization rates:- Case studies of selected Asian and African LDCs

**Regina Ledesma** | UNCTAD

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

14.30 - 15.00 Interactive discussion

15.00 - 15.30 The updating of the UNCTAD GSP website on utilization rates

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

**Regina Ledesma** | UNCTAD

15.30 - 16.00 Interactive discussion

16.00 - 16.30 Excerpts from consultations for training purposes

**Regina Ledesma** | UNCTAD

**Ludovica Poponcini** | UNCTAD

16.30 - 17.00 Interactive discussion

17.00 - 17.15 The topics for next submissions in 2024: Convergence on products specific rules of origin, level of percentages and best practices on proof of origin

**Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD  
**Speaker from ADB** – TBC

17.15 - 17.30 Interactive discussion

17.30 - 18.30 Cocktail