Executive workshop

Negotiating and drafting rules of origin for LDC WTO Group

9 - 12 May 2023

Theatre - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific organiser:

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

Introduction

The executive training on Negotiating and drafting Rules of Origin (RoO) for LDC WTO Group is a four-day intensive workshop aimed at providing an in-depth analysis of rules of origin in the multilateral trading system to adequately prepare LDC delegates to better understand and actively participate in multilateral deliberations at the WTO Committee on rules of origin and other negotiating fora.

The course provides an accurate and tailored examination of the different aspects of rules of origin and an update on the status of RoO in international trade from an institutional and business perspective, the various options and modalities to draft rules of origin and the trade effects in drafting these rules. The presenters are officials of UNCTAD, WTO, WCO, ADB, Government officials and business leaders.

The event includes presentations, interactive discussions, and simulations of negotiations on rules of origin, preparing for the Committee of Rules of Origin meetings on the road towards the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13). Participants will learn about the negotiations leading the road to Nairobi Decision, the main techniques of drafting rules of origin, different models of rules of origin in FTAs, the use of utilisation rates to measure restrictiveness of rules of origin and the lessons learned from the implementation of the Nairobi Decision. The training will also discuss the experience of ADB in assisting Asian countries and in concluding discussions to prepare for the next session of the CRO on 12 October and the CRO Report for MC 13.
Programme

9 May

08.30 - 09.00  Arrival and registration

09.00 - 09.15  Welcome

09.15 - 09.30  Opening statement
  **Paul Akiwumi** | Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

09.30 - 09.45  Opening remarks
  **Coordinator of the LDC Group** | WTO

09.45 - 10.15  Coffee break

**Item 1: The current status of rules of origin in the multilateral trading system**

This session is intended to provide an overview of the status of rules of origin in the multilateral trading system and the way forward to MC13

10.15 - 10.30  Presentation of the course and its objectives
  **Stefano Inama** | UNCTAD

10.30 - 10.45  Why rules of origin matter for business?
  **Jon Edward** | AJ Bicycle manufacturer, Cambodia

10.45 - 11.00  Interactive discussion

11.00 - 11.30  **WCO instruments and Tools – Practical Guide to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Rules of Origin for LDCS**
  **Chunxiao Xu** | WCO

11.30 - 11.45  Interactive discussion

11.45 - 12.15  The path to WTO Ministerial Decisions on Rules of Origin
  **Darlan Marti** | WTO
  **Simon Neumueller** | WTO

12.15 - 12.30  Interactive discussion

12.30 - 12.50  Lessons learned from the CRO proceedings leading to Nairobi Decision and its implementation:
  An LDC core group leader perspective
  **Elia Mtweve** | Counsellor, Mission of Tanzania

12.50 - 13.00  Interactive discussion

13.00 - 14.15  Lunch
**Item 2: The LDC WTO agenda on rules of origin: Building on the achievements to move forward**

This session is intended to provide detailed background technical information on how the LDC have brought forward their agenda in WTO and the support provided by UNCTAD and other stakeholders.

14.15 - 14.45  
*The long path the Nairobi ministerial decision on preferential rules of origin: an assessment and possible way forward* Excerpts from UNCTAD publication “Getting to better Rules of origin for LDCs using utilization rates”  
**Stefano Inama | UNCTAD**

14.45 - 15.15  
*The LDC submissions leading to the Nairobi Decision: Excerpts from the previous submissions (UNCTAD Compendium I)*  
**Egbert Amoncio | UNCTAD**

15.15 - 15.30  
Interactive discussion

15.30 - 15.45  
Coffee break

15.45 - 16.15  
*The LDC submissions leading to the Nairobi Decision: Excerpts from the previous submissions (UNCTAD Compendium II)*  
**Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD**

16.15 - 16.30  
Interactive discussion

16.30 - 17.00  
*Next steps towards MC13*  
**Marti Darlan | WTO**  
**Stefano Inama | UNCTAD**

17.00 - 17.30  
Interactive discussion

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**10 May**  
**Item 3: The technicalities of rules of origin**

09.00 - 09.30  
*Concepts of rules of origin (1): Trade effects of RoO and trade preferences, wholly obtained, substantial transformation, and ancillary concepts*  
**Stefano Inama | UNCTAD**

09.30 - 09.45  
Interactive discussion

09.45 - 10.15  
*Concepts of rules of origin (2): Cumulation*  
**Stefano Inama | UNCTAD**

10.15 - 10.30  
Interactive discussion

10.30 - 11.00  
Coffee break

11.00 - 11.45  
*Technical drafting of rules of origin: Evidence from FTAs and lessons learned during CRO debates*  
**Stefano Inama | UNCTAD**

11.45 - 12.00  
Interactive discussion
12.00 - 12.45 Certification of proof of origin: Lessons learned and new frontiers
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

12.45 - 13.00 Interactive discussion

13.00 - 14.15 Lunch

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

14.45 - 15.00 Interactive discussion

15.00 - 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 - 15.45 Evidence on Utilization rates from WTO secretariat notes
Darian Marti | WTO
Simon Neumueller | WTO

15.45 - 16.00 Interactive discussion

16.00 - 16.30 Extracting data from UNCTAD GSP website and Comtrade to produce the Diagnostic of Utilization of Trade Preferences (DUTP) and COMESA study on URs
Egbert Amoncio | UNCTAD
Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD

16.30 - 17.00 Interactive discussion

11 May

Item 4: Simulation of negotiations on RoO - Preparing for the Committee of Rules of Origin meeting and related negotiating context RoO

09.00 - 09.30 Presentation of negotiation simulation
WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

09.30 - 10.30 LDC group presentations and discussion Module 1 – Substantial transformation: Value added, percentage thresholds

LDCs Representatives:
• Leader – Senegal
• Alternate – Central African Republic

PGCs Representatives:
• Leader – Bangladesh
• Alternate – Niger

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break
10.45 - 11.45  
*LDC group presentations and discussion Module 2 – Substantial transformation: Methods of calculation of value*

LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Togo
- Alternate – Mozambique

PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Guinea
- Alternate – Cambodia

11.45 - 12.45  
*LDC group presentations and discussion Module 3 – Substantial transformation: Change of tariff classification rules*

LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Niger
- Alternate – Bangladesh

PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Tanzania
- Alternate – Togo

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.00  
*LDC group presentations and discussion Module 4 – Substantial transformation: Specific manufacturing*

LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Guinea
- Alternate – Senegal

PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Niger
- Alternate – Burkina Faso

15.00 - 16.00  
*LDC group presentations and discussion Module 5 – Cumulation*

LDCs Representatives:
- Leader – Cambodia
- Alternate – Togo

PGCs Representatives:
- Leader – Senegal
- Alternate – Bangladesh
16.00 - 17.00  LDC group presentations and discussion Module 6 – Documentary requirements

LDCs Representatives:
• Leader – Burkina Faso
• Alternate – Tanzania

PGCs Representatives:
• Leader – Mozambique
• Alternate – Central African Republic

17.00 - 17.15  Summary of discussion

12 May

09.00 - 09.15  Presentation on the UK DCTS
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

09.15 - 09.30  Interactive discussion and rehearsal
WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

09.30 - 10.00  Evidence from the analysis of URs of China and India
Egbert Amoncio | UNCTAD

10.00 - 10.30  Interactive discussion and rehearsal
WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

10.30 - 10.45  Coffee break

10.45 - 11.15  Cumulation procedures and AGOA renewal
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

11.15 - 11.30  Interactive discussion and rehearsal
WTO LDC Group Representative – TBC

11.30 - 12.00  Presentation of next issues for the October CRO (Convergence on PSRO; setting appropriate levels of ad valorem percentage requirements; best practices on certification of rules of origin)
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

12.00 - 12.30  The experience of ADB in assisting Asian countries
Asian Development Bank (ADB) – TBC

12.30 - 13.00  Interactive discussions

13.00 - 14.00  Lunch

14.00 - 14.30  Preparation for the CRO report: A possible table of content
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

14.30 - 14.45  Interactive discussions

14.45 - 15.15  Coffee break
15.15 - 15.45  The negotiation of the Nairobi Decision: Lessons learned
               Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
               Darlan Marti | WTO

15.45 - 16.00  Interactive discussions

16.00 - 16.30  Panel discussions on work ahead and preparations for next CRO meetings and MC13

16.30 - 17.00  Concluding discussions