

Workshop

Executive Meeting on Negotiating and Drafting Rules of Origin (RoO) for the LDC WTO Group in preparation for MC-14

28 - 29 October 2025

Via Camillo Cavour, 65 Florence

Scientific organiser:

Arancha Gonzalez | EUI

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

TUESDAY 28 October 2025

Opening session

10:00 – 10:10	Opening statement Paul Akiwumi Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD
10:10 – 10:20	Opening remarks Coordinator of the WTO LDC Group Deputy-Ambassador of the Gambia STG representative
10:20 – 10:35	Presentation of the workshop Stefano Inama UNCTAD
10:35 – 10:55	Coffee break

ITEM 1: The convening notices of the chairman of the WTO CRO and the work ahead

This session discusses the content on the convening notice of the chairman and the work ahead of the CRO.

11:10 – 11:40	The expectations of the WTO members for the CRO meeting of 5 - 6 of November 2025 Darlan Marti World Trade Organization
11:40 – 12:00	Interactive discussion
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break



ITEM 2: Updates about matter arising on Rules of Origin at multilateral and regional level

This session discusses the specific RoO issues arising at multilateral and regional level.

- 13:30 – 14:00 Update from discussions and studies in WCO secretariat on best practices for origin certification and ongoing studies
Demba Seck | World Custom Organization
- 14:00 – 14:15 Interactive discussions
- 14:15 – 15:00 Presentation of emerging issues on rules of origins and UNCTAD-ICC survey on non-preferential rules of origin
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
Julie Sonladuangchanh | International Chamber of Commerce
- 15:00 – 15:15 Interactive discussions
- 15:15 – 15:30 Coffee break

ITEM 3: Expectations arising from presentations made in November 2024 and April 2025 on Best practices and subsequent informal consultations in July and 16 September among PGMs and LDCs

This session will discuss the level of ambitions of the LDCs for the text to be presented at MC14 and the expectations of LDCs on specific rules of origin issues raised in the CRO of November 2024 and April 2025.

- 15:30 – 15:50 (a) Presentations of the draft LDC text for MC14
 (b) Statement of the LDC group of the agenda for the CRO of November and implications for the LDC group
 (c) Discussion on how to push forward the expectations of the LDCs
Edem Kossi | LDC Core Group leader
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 15:50 – 16:05 Interactive discussion
- 16:05 – 16:45 Presentations on possible findings on setting the adequate
 (a) Level of ad valorem percentage (Sub-item A)
 (b) Method of calculation of ad valorem percentage (Sub-item B)
Delegation of Cambodia and Zambia |
- 16:45 – 17:10 Presentation on possible findings on the evidence of direct consignment (Sub-item C)
Delegation of Nepal and Burkina Faso |
- 17:10 – 17:30 Presentation on the rules based on the change of tariff classification criterion by introducing alternative rules such as *ad valorem* or specific working or processing (Sub-item D)
Delegation of Togo and Senegal |
- 17:30 – 17:45 Presentation on cumulation provisions (Sub-item F)
Delegation of Madagascar |

17:45 – 18:00 Presentation on proof of origin (certificate of origin and self-certification) (Sub-item E)

Delegation of Guinea and Senegal |

ITEM 5: Emerging issues on rules of origin

This session focuses on emerging issues on rules of origin in international trade relevant to LDCs that could form part of next CRO agenda issues.

- 10:00 – 10:30 Report on final draft study on cumulation funded by UK government
Stefano Inama and Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
- 10:30 – 10:45 Interactive discussion
- 10:45 – 11:00 Discussion on how to present the findings of the cumulation study at the CRO
Stefano Inama and Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

ITEM 6: Current UNCTAD findings on impact of non-preferential on LDCs

- 11:15 – 11:30 Presentation on non-preferential rules of origin on LDCs
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 11:30 – 11:45 Notifications on non-preferential rules of origin and Preferential rules of origin for LDCs
Enzo Calvo and Medhavi Devraj | UNCTAD

ITEM 7: Update on utilization rate and GSP website

- 11:45 – 11:55 Discussion on utilization rate
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 11:55 – 12:05 Improvements to UNCTAD GSP website
Serafino Marchesse and Regina Ledesma | UNCTAD

ITEM 8: Upcoming events

- 12:05 – 12:30 Presentation of the concept note of the Asian Regional Forum on rules of origin and related documentation
Pramila Crivelli | ADB
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break