Ad-hoc Expert Meeting on UNCTAD VSS Assessment Toolkit
Assessing Stakeholders' Preparedness to Voluntary Sustainability Standards
28 March 2019 (10h30-16h30), Room Concordia 5, Palais des Nations, Geneva

PROGRAMME

9:45	Registration
10:15	**Welcome and objectives of the meeting** Bonapas Onguglo, Head, Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD
10:30	**Introduction to the VSS Assessment Toolkit** Dr Aimee Hampel-Milagrosa, Economist, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), Asian Development Bank
11:00	**Report on pilot studies of the VSS Assessment Toolkit** Experience applying the VSS Assessment Toolkit to organic certification in the coffee value chain in Lao PDR, and the coconut oil value chain in the Philippines and Vanuatu
11:45	**Structure of the VSS Toolkit - Part I:** • Is the mixed-method approach to data collection the best option? • Does the structure of the questionnaire flow?
12:30	Lunch
13:30	**Structure of the VSS Toolkit - Part II:** • Are all key questions included in the survey and interview? What is missing? • Are the connections with the SDGs well captured? • How can these questions be used for policy making?
14:15	**Usefulness, adaptability and applicability of VSS toolkit** • Who (else) could potentially benefit from the toolkit? • Are there similar initiatives? How can the toolkit complement them?
15:00	**Modes of dissemination and support structures** • Would designing an on-line based tool be useful? What would it look like? • Is it useful to develop platforms for users to share findings and experiences? • Should there be a monitoring committee to provide support to actors?
15:45	Break
16:00	**Closing remarks and next steps** Miho Shirotori, Chief, Global and Regional Trade Analysis, Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC), UNCTAD