



## NOTIFICATION

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### Online course on trade policy frameworks UNCTAD trade policy e-learning series

14 October–16 December 2024  
<https://elearning.unctad.org>

DITC/MISC/2024/14  
(24/189gd)

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is pleased to inform the permanent missions of member States in Geneva that UNCTAD will launch a new online course on trade policy frameworks, to take place in English from 14 October to 16 December 2024.

The course is based on the UNCTAD publication *Trade Policy Frameworks for Developing Countries: A Manual of Best Practices*. It will focus on considerations and processes involved in developing a national trade policy framework fit for the interests of a developing country. The course is aimed at enhancing and strengthening the technical capacity of trade officials and other stakeholders to develop appropriate trade policies in line with national sustainable development goals. Upon completing the course, participants will be equipped with the tools and skills required to devise a trade policy framework. The course targets government officials and other stakeholders, including trade experts from non-governmental organizations, involved in the formulation of a national trade policy framework. See the attached prospectus for details.

Access to the course is free of charge. Interested candidates should apply by following the instructions at <https://elearning.unctad.org/enrol/index.php?id=272>. Once the account has been validated, log in and select the course on the programme page at <https://elearning.unctad.org/tradepolicy>. Enter the following key to enrol in the course: TPF2024.

The deadline for applications is 11 October 2024.

UNCTAD kindly requests the permanent missions of member States in Geneva to forward this notification to relevant ministries in the capital, including ministries in charge of issues related to trade and other economic issues.

To obtain assistance with the online application process, please contact [elearningtrade@un.org](mailto:elearningtrade@un.org). More information is available at <https://elearning.unctad.org/tradepolicy>. Requests for further information or clarification about the course should be sent to Ms. Ebru Gökçe Dessemond, Economic Affairs Officer, Trading Systems Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities; email: [ebru.gokce@un.org](mailto:ebru.gokce@un.org).

(signed)

Luz Maria de la Mora Sanchez  
Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities  
1 October 2024





## Online course: Trade policy frameworks

14 October–16 December 2024

### Prospectus

#### Background

Trade policymaking is a challenging task in all countries and presents particularly significant difficulties for officials in developing countries. What may seem at first to be a purely external exercise is actually intimately related to national development policy as a whole and involves a series of domestic trade-offs. To formulate policy in this field, the interests of consumers and producers need to be balanced, while the goals of the most efficient and export-oriented industries need to be weighed against those of industries still aiming to achieve competitiveness.

Trade policymaking has become even more complicated in the context of current trade dynamics affected by geopolitical tensions and new industrial policies, particularly of developed economies. Trade policymakers need to have a reasoned plan that guides decisions and actions. A trade policy framework may respond to this need. Such a framework offers a structure for the many decisions that the negotiators, legislators and litigators of a country need to make as they devise and implement policy.

The course is based on the UNCTAD publication [\*Trade Policy Frameworks for Developing Countries: A Manual of Best Practices\*](#). The manual is aimed at providing guidance on the development of a trade policy framework and situating trade policy as a branch of development policy. It is based largely on lessons learned from trade policy frameworks developed in the past, as well as on comparative data on the challenges faced by and the experiences of developing countries as a group.

The course will be offered in English over a period of nine weeks from **14 October to 16 December 2024**. It consists of nine modules, of which eight include pre-recorded videos prepared by the instructor, along with two webinars, to be held in October and December, at which participants can engage in interactive discussions with the principal course lecturer, as well as trade experts from UNCTAD and other international organizations.

#### Objectives

The course is aimed at enhancing and strengthening the technical capacity of trade officials and other stakeholders to develop appropriate trade policies in line with national sustainable development goals. As part of the UNCTAD trade policy electronic learning series, the course is tailored to respond to the needs of developing countries and the least developed countries. Upon completing the course, participants will be equipped with the tools and skills required to devise a trade policy framework. A detailed description of the course content and timetable is provided in the annex.



## Target audience and prerequisites

The course targets government officials and other stakeholders, including trade experts from non-governmental organizations, involved in the formulation of a national trade policy framework. Applicants from a broad spectrum of backgrounds in policymaking including, but not limited to, international trade, industry, agriculture, services, the environment, labour and technology, are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold at least a bachelor's degree in economics or related areas.
- Possess excellent knowledge of the English language.

To successfully complete course activities, participants need to devote around two hours per week to the course.

## Certificate of completion

Participants who successfully complete the course modules and quizzes with passing grades will receive a certificate of completion.

## Application information and deadline

Interested candidates should apply by following the instructions at <https://elearning.unctad.org/enrol/index.php?id=272>. Once the account has been validated, log in and select the course on the programme page at <https://elearning.unctad.org/tradepolicy>. Enter the following key to enrol in the course: TPF2024.

The deadline for applications is **11 October 2024**. To obtain assistance with the online application process, please contact [elearningtrade@un.org](mailto:elearningtrade@un.org).

Requests for further information or clarification about this course should be sent to:

Ms. Ebru Gökçe Dessemond  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Trading Systems, Services and Creative Economy Branch  
Division on International Trade and Commodities  
UNCTAD  
[ebru.gokce@un.org](mailto:ebru.gokce@un.org)

Ms. Laura Moresino-Borini  
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Division on International Trade and Commodities  
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## Annex

### Online course: Trade policy frameworks

14 October–16 December 2024

#### Content and timetable

The course consists of the following **nine modules**:

1. What is trade policy, and what should be its objective?
2. Trade policy frameworks
3. Trade and development
4. Options for trade and development: Discrimination, non-discrimination and special and differential treatment
5. Traditional instruments of trade policy: Tariffs, trade-remedy laws and other border measures
6. The expanding scope of trade policy: Services, investment, intellectual property and other issues
7. Trade policy frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals
8. Trade policy frameworks and dispute settlement
9. Preparing national positions: Interministerial consultations and relations with civil society

**Two webinars** on the following topics will be held in **October and December 2024**:

**Webinar 1:** Trade policy and development

**Webinar 2:** Emerging issues in trade policy formulation and implementation

Participants will be requested to pass a multiple-choice quiz after each module, except for introductory module 1, to be able to move on to the following module.

An Internet connection is required to access the online course modules and complete the quizzes, and to participate in the discussions in the forum and during webinars.

The timetable is as follows:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Content</b>
Week 1 <b>14–20 October</b>	<b>Module 1</b> What is trade policy, and what should be its objective?	Nature, scope and objectives of trade policy
Week 2 <b>21–27 October</b>	<b>Module 2</b> Trade policy frameworks	What is a trade policy framework? Stages in the development of a trade policy framework Criteria and mechanisms for assessing a trade policy framework
Week 3 <b>28 October–3 November</b>	<b>Module 3</b> Trade and development	Major schools of thought in the area of trade and development
<b>31 October, 2–3.30 p.m. (CET)</b>	<b>Webinar 1</b> Trade policy and development	
Week 4 <b>4–10 November</b>	<b>Module 4</b> Options for trade and development: Discrimination, non-discrimination and special and differential treatment	Typology of trade agreements Unilateral preferences versus regional trade agreements Progression of developing country policies vis-à-vis industrialized trading partners Regional trade agreements: Building blocks or stumbling blocks? Free trade agreements and multilateralism
Week 5 <b>11–17 November</b>	<b>Module 5</b> Traditional instruments of trade policy: Tariffs, trade-remedy laws and other border measures	Tariffs, other taxes and instruments for influencing trade. Trade remedy laws
Week 6 <b>18–24 November</b>	<b>Module 6</b> The expanding scope of trade policy: Services, investment, intellectual property and other issues	General categories of trade issues Issues in rounds of the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Wide-ranging trade issues and regional trade agreement negotiations for developing countries
Week 7 <b>25 November–1 December</b>	<b>Module 7</b> Trade policy frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals	The Sustainable Development Goals and international institutions The Sustainable Development Goals and trade Strategy versus tactics in trade negotiations
Week 8 <b>2–8 December</b>	<b>Module 8</b> Trade policy frameworks and dispute settlement	World Trade Organization dispute settlement mechanism Relationship between negotiation and litigation
<b>4 December, 2–3.30 p.m. (CET)</b>	<b>Webinar 2</b> Emerging issues in trade policy formulation and implementation	
Week 9 <b>9–16 December</b>	<b>Module 9</b> Preparing national positions: Interministerial consultations and relations with civil society	Model of participation in international organizations Jurisdictional issues at the national level Lines of communication within the Government Establishing a consultative mechanism for developing a trade policy framework