



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**UNCTAD**

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# Action 3: Policy Coordination

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# Outline

1. Action 3: Policy Coordination
2. Opportunities to join forces to tackle challenges
3. Needs and objectives
4. Guiding principles
5. Recommendations and timeline
6. Actors and their roles



# Action 3: Policy Coordination

- Rapidly **changing international political landscape** encompassing global trade and environmental challenges
  - US IRA ...
  - EU regulations on de-forestation ...
- MSG member States share
  - **Challenges**
    - Small islands, remote from many markets
    - Need to adapt to developments in international policies that impact their territories
  - **Opportunities**
    - Geographical and cultural ties
    - Certain products or production opportunities
    - Similar interests, e.g., Testing, Kava, Experience sharing, representation in Codex, ...

# Action 3: Opportunity to join forces to tackle challenges

## Strengthen MSG Countries cooperation

- Identify **areas where policy coordination** and resource pooling would be beneficial **Efficiency** while reinforcing their independence and adaptability
- **“Outward” policies** that influence areas such as sustainable development or international trade

This might encompass

1. discussions on **new international treaties** OR changes in the policy frameworks of commercial partners
2. coordinating a **common position** to increase the impact and influence of the MSG member States when facing partners
3. designating a **single representative** to voice the group’s collective stance. Could bolster the influence of the MSG member States in shaping international policies
4. reinforcing **trade agreements** like the MFTA which aims to promote sustainable and inclusive trade in the region
5. **sharing** successful policies implemented nationally

# Action 3: Needs and Objectives

- Building on **national phase** experience
  - Overcome **resource constraints**
  - Need for harmonization with **international standards** (such as CODEX), or those of major trade partners, or develop regional standards, while considering the specific need of the respective countries
    - those affecting vital **Pacific products** or significant international meetings, such as those concerning fisheries
    - can **facilitate regional trade** and establish common standards
    - safety and health standards, based on the **latest scientific knowledge**
  - Several trade-related regulations were in need of an **update**
- Objective: **coordinating a common position** to increase the impact and influence of the MSG member States when facing partners and common challenges
  - foster a collaborative approach to policy coordination, encouraging robust and sustainable growth in the region.

# Action 3: Guiding principles

1. Build upon **existing forums** and meetings such as Trade and Economic Officials Meeting (TEOM), developing regular regional policy exchange sessions
  - Other, Regional Codex Committee, Pacific Islands Standards Committee
2. Involve **all sectors** of society, including women and youth, to ensure that the developed policies are inclusive and beneficial to all
3. Identify **new avenues** where policy coordination and resource pooling would be beneficial
4. **Ongoing/planned activities** and organizations to collaborate with (see details in Annex1)

# Recommendations and Timeline

## Action 3

Activity	Recommendations	Priority Level	Timeline
1. Policy Exchange Group	- Establish a Sub-Regional Coordination Group to work in tandem with TEOM Meetings.	High	Short-term
	- Appoint lead coordinators from each member state to form the core team.	High	Short-term
	- Actively involve the private sector, women, and youth in dialogues.	High	Medium-term
	- Develop a structured plan for consistent meetings to share recent national policy developments.	Medium	Medium-term
2. Agenda Setting	- Formulate a focused agenda addressing critical topics such as trade regulations, market challenges, and CODEX standards.	Medium	Medium-term
	- Establish a discussion platform within the policy exchange group to facilitate knowledge and strategy sharing among states.	Medium	Long-term
3. Standards Coordination Group	- Create a team to keep track of international standards and policy developments.	Medium	Medium-term
	- Encourage regular exchanges on global legislative changes affecting export markets.	Medium	Medium-term
	- Promote the alignment with global norms through informed discussions and strategic developments.	Low	Long-term





# Action 3: Actors and their role

## 1. National Governments and Policymakers (*MSG member States*)

- **Role:** Lead the establishment and functioning of policy discussion and standard coordination groups. Their task is to encourage a unified approach to trade-related issues, facilitate regular discussions on global changes, and represent the group's united stance in international forums.

## 2. Policy and Standards Coordination Teams

- **Role:** Act as the core structure for policy alignment, quickly adapting to global changes. They create platforms for dialogue, helping in the uniform application of trade rules across member states and aligning with international norms through regular strategy planning.

## 3. Private Sector and Civil Society, including Women and Youth

- **Role:** Actively participate in policy development processes. Their inclusion ensures that the policies developed are encompassing, catering to the diverse needs and perspectives of all community segments.

## 4. International and Regional Coordination Teams

- **Role:** Collaborate with national entities and policy teams to create cohesive frameworks addressing regional issues. They assist in formulating focused agendas and facilitating knowledge and strategy sharing among states, promoting a sustainable and inclusive trade environment in the region.

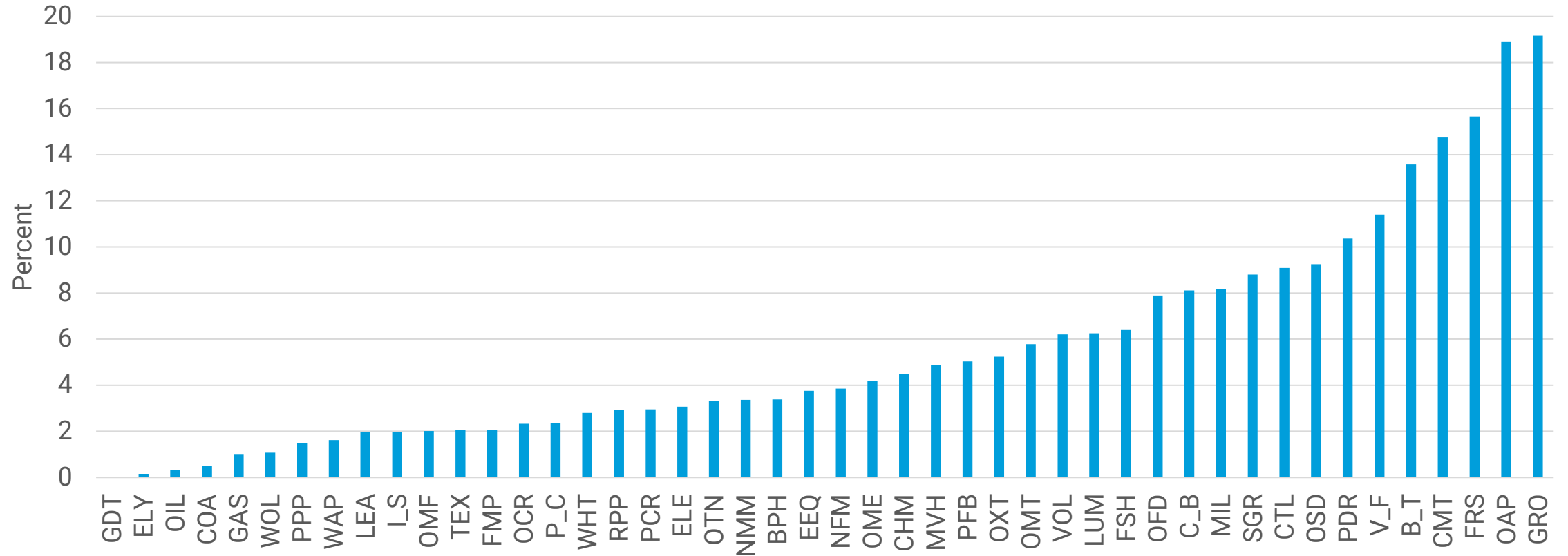
## 5. MSG Secretariat

- **Role:** Provide the platform, facilitate discussions, provide administrative support, provide or organize technical support

# Thank you!



# Average AVE, by GTAP sector



# Bilateral AVEs (Imposed vs Faced)

