

Managing Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in ASEAN

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Presentation Outline

- ASEAN's context on NTMs
- Addressing and Managing NTMs (key priorities)
- NTM Tool kit for ASEAN (possible approach)

ASEAN's Context on NTMs

1. NTMs are on the rise in ASEAN (9000 measures in ASEAN)
2. NTMs are legitimate public policy tools
3. Poor design and implementation of NTMs could incur significant trade costs

Addressing and managing NTMs – ASEAN's key priorities

1. ASEAN Trade Facilitation Joint Consultative Committee (ATFJCC)
 - develops Strategic Action Plan for Trade Facilitation;
 - drafts and periodically review and update the ASEAN Work Programme on Trade Facilitation (AWPTF)
 - direct and coordinate the trade facilitation activities of all relevant ASEAN bodies playing a role on trade facilitation
2. ERIA and UNCTAD support to ASEAN in managing NTMs:
 - shared the updated NTMs in ASEAN Database with AMS (NTRs, transparency)
 - capacity building – data collection, classification, analysis (AMS in 2019/early 2020)
3. Guidelines for the Implementation of ASEAN Commitments on Non-Tariff Measures on Goods (NTM guidelines)
 - provides a general framework to improve the transparency and management of NTMs
 - provides clarity for operationalizing key ATIGA elements, e.g. (notification procedures, publication and administration of trade regulations, ATR)

Addressing and managing NTMs (con't.)

4. While comprehensive, the NTM Guidelines focuses more on **future NTMs** (*ex-ante* approach). Thus, it may not sufficiently address the barrier effect of existing NTMs.

5. ATFJCC tasked ERIA to conduct the stock-take and develop the methodology to address the barrier effect of **existing NTMs** (*ex-post* approach).

6. UNCTAD and ERIA presented NTM draft Tool Kit to ASEAN; consultations by UNCTAD and ERIA with experts on the draft tool kit; and on-going discussion with ASEAN on the tool kit and working towards possible endorsement.

NTM Tool Kit for ASEAN (possible approach)

(i) National context and approach

- it should be used to serve the domestic political agenda and to improve countries' own regulatory practices and competitiveness
- Identification of products and NTMs at the national level

(ii) Regional context and approach (going beyond national level)

- (a) Consistent approach across AMS/region - using the same framework or approach, provides consistency and approach in dealing with NTMs across AMS/region
- (b) Product of regional interest - to the extent possible, explore products relevant for regional value chains (i.e. regionally imported or exported as a pilot involving these 2 to 3 AMS)

THANK YOU!