



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes ( ALDC )

Government of the Netherlands



# UNCTAD/EUI Training initiative for LDCs

## 1<sup>st</sup> Executive training: Rules of origin

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20 April 2015  
Geneva, Switzerland

# Background

- The Bali Ministerial lays out a built-in agenda for the LDCs that calls for extensive follow-up and engagement by the LDC group in Geneva and in LDC Capitals.
- Improved participation of LDCs in the global economy depend not only on the political will of these countries, but also on their capacity to evaluate, draft and implement sound legal instruments
- Limited human resource capacity in the area of trade law and international economics reduces the effectiveness of the laudable efforts by LDC representatives to pursue actions to foster deeper integration and participation.

# The UNCTAD/EUI partnership

- The initiative is delivered through a partnership between UNCTAD and the Global Governance Programme (GGP) of the European University Institute.
- UNCTAD has been supporting the LDCs through research and training in both the context of the WTO and regional trade initiatives.
- The EUI's Global Governance Programme has developed an active program of research and executive training in the area of trade, investment and development

# Objectives

- The objective is to enhance the skills and knowledge of officials from LDCs – both Geneva and Capital-based – on specific operationally-important areas of international economic law and policy
- It is expected that bringing together Geneva-based delegates and capital-based officials will establish a two- way flow of information
- Such sharing of expertise will contribute to the establishment of a more solid knowledge base and increase the pool of delegates conversant on trade policy and customs matters

# Funding

- Funding has been now approved for the first executive training sessions on rules of origin from the Dutch Government
- Further funding is necessary to carry out next training sessions: need for joint action
- The training is held at the EUI premises in Florence (Italy)

# Executive training on RoO

## Some background

- UNCTAD started to assist LDCs in the implementation of HK declaration in 2006
- The process culminated in Bali with the Ministerial Decision on preferential RoO
- The decision has and built- in agenda that can be developed in the CRO
- But much will depend on the ability of LDCs to push the item in the Agenda of the CRO.
- It took 8 years to get to the Decision

## Some Previous work

- On April 9, 2014, UNCTAD with support of the Dutch Government organized a workshop in Geneva on the way forward to the Bali Decision on Preferential Rules of Origin
- At the CRO meeting of 10 April 2014 it was agreed that the LDCs will be presenting a paper on their difficulties on ROO at the next CRO meeting in October 2015
- At the October meeting of the CRO Uganda presented a comprehensive paper on the LDC experience
- Next CRO meeting is 28 April
- Need to prepare for the WTO Ministerial in December

# The organization of this course

- The course is structured on 3 stints
- A first intensive two and half day on substantive issues
- A first assessment on the basis of a Q&A questionnaire on Wednesday afternoon
- Thursday is dedicated to outside views and a first hearing from different stakeholders
- Friday is an intensive day dedicated entirely to 1) preparations for the CRO meetings of 30 april and 2) final examination



## Second course October 2014

- This first course will contain a written assessment
- Only participants who have passed the assessment at the end of the first course will be admitted to the second course

# Thank you for your attention

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