

UNCTAD Multi-year Expert Meeting on
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Geneva, 18-20 July 2017

**The National Policy on Services Trade:
The Experience from Uganda**

by

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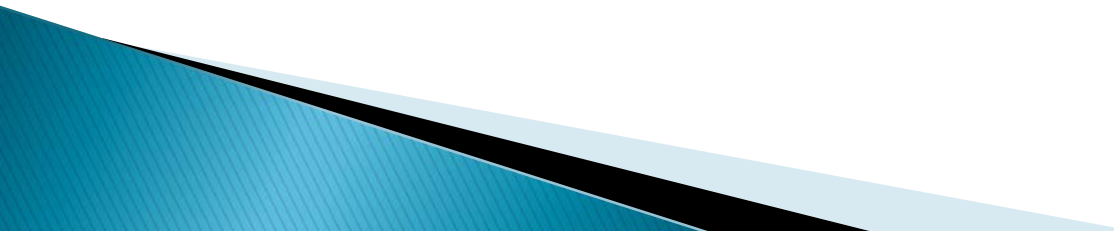
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The National Policy on Services Trade: The Experience from Uganda

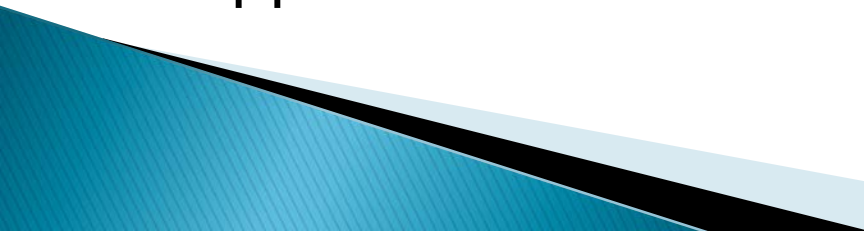
Presentation on National Services Trade Policy Formulation processes and the Services Sector in Uganda,
Multi Year Expert Meeting Geneva, 18–20 July 2017

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Lay out of presentation

- ▶ Introduction–
 - ▶ The Status of the Services Sector in Uganda
 - ▶ The Services Policy Review and The Development of The National Services Policy
 - ▶ background to the policy
 - ▶ Conclusion
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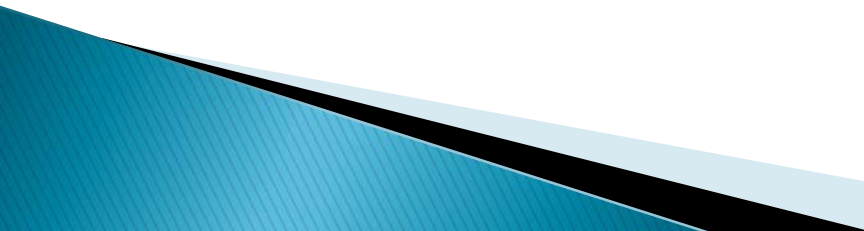
The Services Policy Review 2010

- ▶ Undertaken by UNCTAD, led by Mina Mashayekhi, Head, Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch. Team members included Deepali Fernandes and Robert Hamwey.
 - ▶ The Uganda NSPR focused on four future growth areas within the services sector, namely professional, insurance, accountancy and construction services.
 - ▶ The UNCTAD Team of experts engaged with a broad group of stakeholders from government, industry, academia and civil society to identify challenges and opportunities in the abovementioned services.
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The UNCTAD SPR

- ▶ The review process included an analysis of the current policy framework for professional, insurance, accountancy and construction services; regulatory and institutional challenges inhibiting sectoral development; national development objectives; prospective policy options to strengthen domestic supply capacity and SMEs competitiveness; and the potential impacts of services and services trade liberalization on sectoral FDI, SMEs, efficiency, employment, access to foreign markets and universal access to basic services.

What happened since the review

- ▶ National Policy on Services Trade formulated
 - ▶ Task force formed
 - ▶ National Stakeholder consultation
 - ▶ Consultant reviewed all the studies
 - ▶ Prepared a draft National Policy on Services Trade
 - ▶ Draft policy submitted to cabinet for approval
 - ▶ Today 19/07/2017, the policy is being presented to cabinet for approval
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What has happened since the Review

- ▶ **National Policy on Services Trade formulated, Draft Before Cabinet, will be presented Today 19/7.2017**
- ▶ The professional services sector recommendations to leverage Uganda's large pool of medium and high skill workers and enhance professional services exports in the East Africa Community was stressed.
- ▶ **MRAs for Engineers, Lawyers and Accountants signed**
- ▶ In the accountancy services sector the need for legislative reform to grant a legal mandate to the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda as a means of increasing professional and ethical compliance was highlighted.
- ▶ **The amendment of the ACT creating ICPAU being undertaken**
- ▶ In the insurance sector, the need for the proposed mandatory National Health Insurance Scheme to provide medical insurance cover to the majority of the Ugandan population, largely in the informal sector was considered important as was the need to create a body charged with the duty to advise Government on appropriate risk management policies.
National Insurance Regulatory Authority created to handle the process

conclusion

- ▶ The National Policy on Services Trade will be passed and Implementation will commence
- ▶ Most the issues in the review was captured in the policy actions
- ▶ *They include the following*
 - 1) Strengthening regulatory framework of some of the sectors*
 - 2) Establishing Sector Associations, and ultimately the Coalition of Services Industries*
 - 3) Building Firm level capacities and competitiveness*
 - 4) Development of domestic and regional export markets.*

When these among others are implemented, we believe the services sector will achieve its potential of driving growth and transformation in Uganda.

ASANTE SANA

