

## Start-up meeting

*Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence-  
Powered Transparency on Trade-Related  
Regulations  
for Gender-Sensitive Policymaking in Africa*

# Gender-AI-Trade/NTM

October 2026

Trade Analysis Branch, UNCTAD

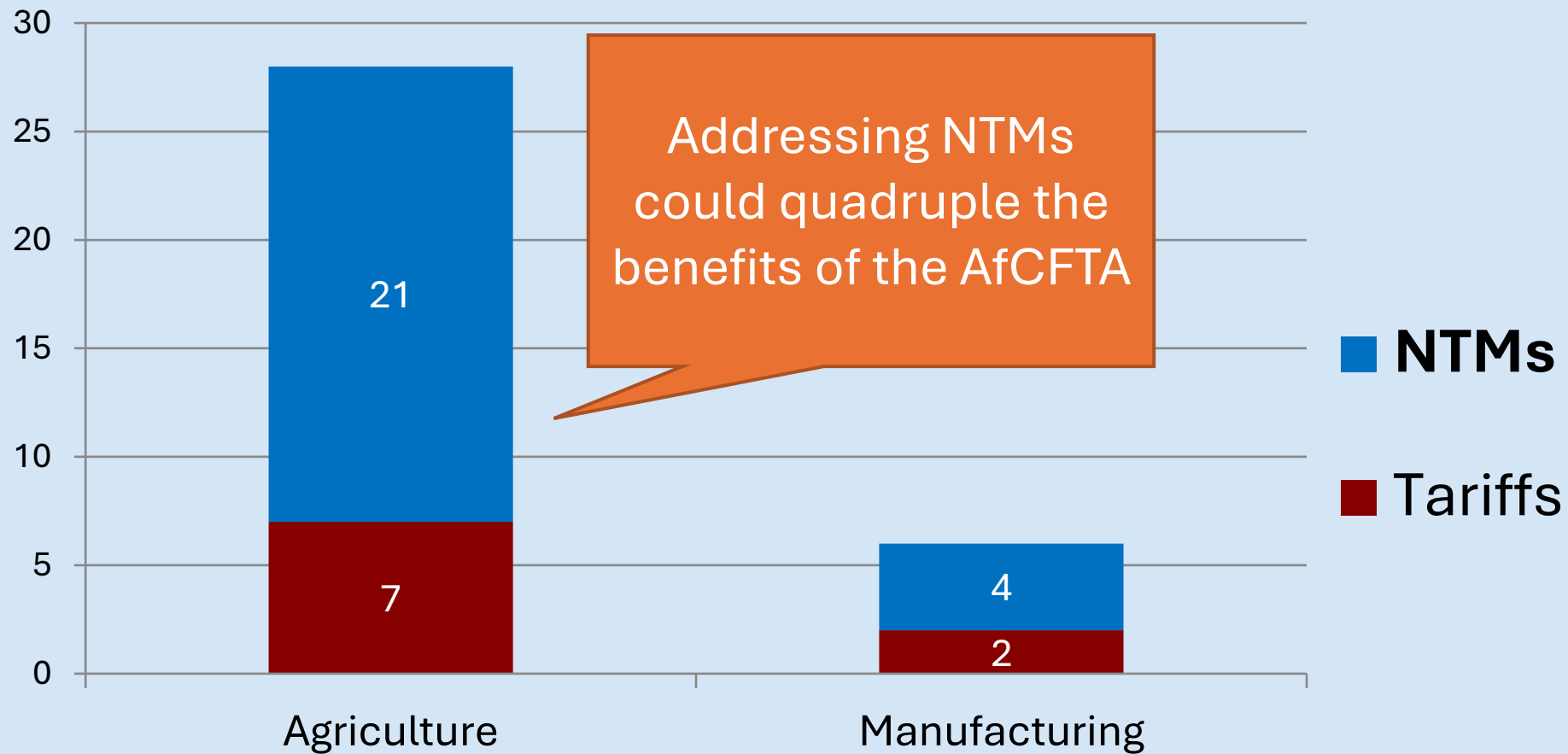
# One step back: what are non-tariff measures (NTMs)

# Definition of non-tariff measures

- **NTM definition by UNCTAD / GNTB-MAST:**
  - *“Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, or prices or both.”*
  - **Neutral concept!**
  - **Including mostly good, legitimate policies!**
  - **Including measures that apply to domestic producers, too**

# Why do NTMs matter?

## Costs of non-tariff measures



# NTM costs

Who pays the price? Not only exporters, but also...

## COMSUMERS

Increased cost of imported food / consumer products

Protection of domestic producers, but...

Pass-through of **higher prices to consumers**  
= wide population

## VALUE CHAINS

- Increased cost of imported production inputs (e.g. *vaccines/feed for poultry*)
  - Protection of domestic inputs suppliers (*vaccines/feed*)
  - Increased production cost of final product (*poultry*)
  - **Loss of competitiveness** of domestic producer in final product market (*poultry market*)
  - Pass-through of **higher prices to consumers**

## NTM benefits

- Usually, applied equally to domestic producers
- They ***directly*** impact on sustainability
  - ✓ food security (SDG 2),
  - ✓ nutrition and health (SDG 3),
  - ✓ protect endangered species and the environment (SDGs 14&15),
  - ✓ ensure sustainable production, consumption (SDG 12) and energy (SDG 7),
  - ✓ combat climate change (SDG 13)
- No elimination/reduction, rather more to be expected
- Not less, but “better”

# NTM data collection: from text to data

**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

**25'000 different regulations...**

**On several millions of pages from numerous agencies, various websites or offline**

**FOOD ACT, No. 26 OF 1980**

**REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee under No. 26 of 1980.**

**NIMAL SIR**  
**Minister of Health**  
**Uva Wellas**

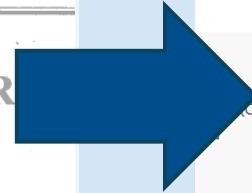
**Colombo.**  
**17th January, 2005.**

**Regulations**

01. These Regulations may be cited as "Food (Labelling and Advertising) Regulations 2005."

02. No person shall sell, offer for sale, expose or keep for sale, transport or advertise for sale, any food container unless such package or container is labelled in accordance with these regulations.

Provided however that, these regulations shall not apply to any package of food if the food is of the nature or brand requested by the purchaser and is weighed, counted or measured in the presence of the purchaser.



| Lead Regulation         | NTM Code | Description                                                    | Products Description | HS Codes                                | Country imposing NTM | Partners affected by NTM | Agencies                         |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Food (Control of [...]) |          | The label on or attached to a package [...]                    | not provided         | 09 (This measure applies to: (a) [...]) | Sri Lanka            | World                    | Food Control Administration Unit |
| Food (Control of [...]) | A14      | shall, import, store, transport, distribute or sell [...]      | not provided         | 10 (This measure applies to: (a) [...]) | Sri Lanka            | World                    | Food Control Administration Unit |
| Food (Control of [...]) | F65      | No person shall import, store, transport, distribute or [...]  | not provided         | 12 (This measure applies to: (a) [...]) | Sri Lanka            | World                    | Food Control Administration Unit |
| Food (Control of [...]) | B31      | The label on or attached to a package [...]                    | not provided         | 10 (This measure applies to: (a) [...]) | Sri Lanka            | World                    | Food Control Administration Unit |
| Food (Control of [...]) | E1       | No person shall import, store, transport, distribute or [...]  | not provided         | 09 (This measure applies to: (a) [...]) | Sri Lanka            | World                    | Food Control Administration Unit |
| Food (Control of [...]) | E1       | No person shall, import, store, transport, distribute or [...] | not provided         | 13 (This measure applies to: (a) [...]) | Sri Lanka            | World                    | Food Control Administration Unit |

**100'000 measures**

→ Easy access by:

- Product (HS codes)
- Type of measure
- Country
- Keywords



<https://trainsonline.unctad.org>

e.g. poultry to Togo

# Search by country and product

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## Welcome to TRAINS Portal

One-stop shop for importers/exporters, policymakers, and researchers to access data on trade regulations, Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), as well as some practical information on target markets.

Economies applying the NTMs

Zambia ▾

Affected Markets

All economies ▾

Products affected

Rye, Wheat and meslin, Grain sorghum, Seed ▾

Search

# Search by country and product: results

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| Economy i... | NTM code | NTM code description                         | Measure description                                  | Hs code(s)      | Issuing agency(ies)       | Regulation title          | Implement... | Official regulation document(s)                   |
|--------------|----------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|
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| Zambia       | P33      | Licensing, permit or registration require... | 10. (1) A person shall not research on, develo...    | 01( Only g...   | The National Biosafet...  | The Biosafety Act, 2007   | Apr 24, 2007 | <a href="#">ZMB_Biosafety Act, 2007.pdf</a>       |
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| Zambia       | F65      | Import licence fee                           | 27. The fees set out in the Second Schedule ...      | 02(Only g...    | The National Biosafet...  | The Biosafety (Geneti...  | Jun 11, 2010 | <a href="#">ZMB_Biosafety (Genetically Modifi</a> |
| Zambia       | A859     | Traceability requirements, n.e.s.            | 13. A holder of a permit for the importation ...     | 02(Only g...    | The National Biosafet...  | The Biosafety (Geneti...  | Jun 11, 2010 | <a href="#">ZMB_Biosafety (Genetically Modifi</a> |
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| Zambia       | B15      | Authorization requirement for importers      | 30. (1) A local supplier of prepackaged com...       | 0(Only pr...    | Zambia Metrology Ag...    | The Metrology Act, 20...  | Apr 13, 2017 | <a href="#">ZMB_Metrology Act, 2017.pdf</a>       |
| Zambia       | B31      | Labelling requirements                       | 50. (1) A product that is sold in Zambia shall ...   | 0               | The Competition and ...   | The Competition and ...   | Aug 16, 2010 | <a href="#">ZMB_Competition and Consumer</a>      |
| Zambia       | N9       | Other (n.e.s)                                | 7. (1) A plant breeder's right in respect of a pl... | 06, 07, 08,...  | The Ministry of Agricu... | The Plant Breeder's Ri... | Aug 31, 2007 | <a href="#">ZMB_Plant Breeder's Rights Act, 2</a> |
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| Zambia       | A64      | Storage and transport conditions             | 32. (1) A person shall store seed both before ...    | 070110, 07...   | The Ministry of Agricu... | The Plant Variety and ... | Mar 29, 2018 | <a href="#">ZMB_Plant Variety and Seeds Regu</a>  |
| Zambia       | A82      | Testing requirement                          | 34 (3) The importer of seed shall notify the C...    | 070110, 07...   | The Ministry of Agricu... | The Plant Variety and ... | Mar 29, 2018 | <a href="#">ZMB_Plant Variety and Seeds Regu</a>  |
| Zambia       | B7       | Product-quality, safety or -performance r... | 34 (3) The importer of seed shall notify the C...    | 070110, 07...   | The Ministry of Agricu... | The Plant Variety and ... | Mar 29, 2018 | <a href="#">ZMB_Plant Variety and Seeds Regu</a>  |
| Zambia       | A15      | Authorization requirement for importers...   | 30. (1) A local supplier of prepackaged com...       | 01, 02, 03, ... | Zambia Metrology Ag...    | The Metrology Act, 20...  | Apr 13, 2007 | <a href="#">ZMB_Metrology Act, 2017.pdf</a>       |
| Zambia       | P11      | Authorization or permit requirements to...   | 77. (1) A person shall not, without the approv...    | 01(Only in...   | Zambia Environment...     | The Environmental M...    | Apr 15, 2011 | <a href="#">ZMB_Environmental Management</a>      |
| Zambia       | A14      | Authorization requirement for SPS reaso...   | 3. (1) The issuing authority may issue a perm...     | 0105, 0201...   | The Ministry of Agricu... | Control of Goods (Imp...  | Jan 2, 1970  | <a href="#">ZMB_THE CONTROL OF GOODS(IN</a>       |
| Zambia       | P11      | Authorization or permit requirements to...   | 3. (1) The issuing authority may issue a perm...     | 020110(O...     | The Ministry of Agricu... | Control of Goods (Imp...  | Jan 1, 1970  | <a href="#">ZMB_THE CONTROL OF GOODS(IN</a>       |
| Zambia       | C3       | Requirement to pass through specified ...    | 2. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this ...   | 0               | Zambia Revenue Aut...     | Customs and Excise (...   | Jan 1, 1994  | <a href="#">ZMB_ZMB_Customs and Excise Ac</a>     |
| Zambia       | P21      | Requirement to pass through specified ...    | 2. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this ...   | 0               | Zambia Revenue Aut...     | Customs and Excise (...   | Jan 1, 1994  | <a href="#">ZMB_ZMB_Customs and Excise Ac</a>     |

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| Zambia       | P21      | Requirement to pass through specified ...    | 2. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this ...   | 0               | Zambia Revenue Aut...     | Customs and Excise (...   | Jan 1, 1994  | <a href="#">ZMB_ZMB_Customs and Excise Ac</a>     |

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| Zambia       | B15      | Authorization requirement for importers      | 0(Only pr...                                        | 0              | Zambia Metrology Ag...    | Technology Act, 2...      |              | <a href="#">Zambia Metrology Act, 2017.pdf</a>    |
| Zambia       | B31      |                                              | 0                                                   | 0              | The C...                  | Competition an...         |              | <a href="#">Competition and Consumer</a>          |
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| Zambia       | P21      | Requirement to pass through specified ...    | 2. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this ...  | 0              | Zambia Revenue Aut...     | Customs and Excise (...   | Jan 1, 1994  | <a href="#">ZMB_ZMB_Customs and Excise Ac</a>     |

Measure type

Measure description and text reference

Responsible regulator

Implementation date

Affected products

Regulation title

Link to full text

## Detailed search

### Economies applying the NTMs

Togo

### Affected Markets

Ghana

### Products affected

Meat and edible offal, of the poultry of heading ...

### Type(s) of NTMs

All NTM Types

☐ Exclude measures affecting ALL products

### Date(s) ?

From



To



### Import or Export NTMs

Import

Export

### Multilateral or Bilateral NTMs

Multilateral

Bilateral

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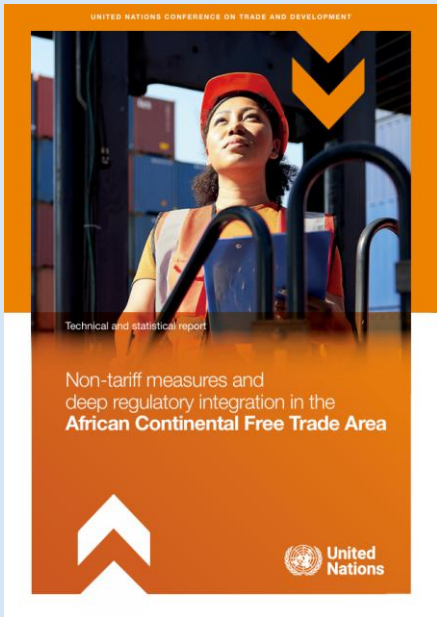
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| Economy imposing ... | NTM code | NTM code description       | Measure description         | Hs code(s)                   | Issuing agency(ies)        | Regulation title          |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Togo                 | C3       | Requirement to pass ...    | Art. 3 The posts of ent...  | 0202, 0203(Only Froze...     | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | A64      | Storage and transport...   | Art. 5 Frozen products...   | 0202, 0203(Only Froze...     | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | A84      | Inspection requireme...    | Art. 1 Customs clearan...   | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | A19      | Prohibitions/restrictio... | Art. 2 The unloading o...   | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | P11      | Authorization or per...    | Art. 16 new The produ...    | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction de l'Elevage     | Order N°074-12/MAEP...    |
| Togo                 | A64      | Storage and transport...   | Art. 25 (a) After post-...  | 0201(Only Fresh meat...      | Direction de l'Elevage     | Order N°077-12/MAEP...    |
| Togo                 | P13      | Production and post-...    | Art. 50 Paragraph 2 Fr...   | 0201(Only Fresh meat...      | Direction de l'Elevage     | Order N°077-12/MAEP...    |
| Togo                 | A31      | Labelling requiremen...    | Art. 7 The labelling of ... | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Order N° 83-08/MAEP...    |
| Togo                 | P15      | Labelling, marking, or...  | Art. 7 The labelling of ... | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Order N° 83-08/MAEP...    |
| Togo                 | A81      | Product registration/a...  | Art. 1 Paragraphs 1 an...   | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction du Commer...     | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | A84      | Inspection requireme...    | Art. 1 The placing on t...  | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction du Commer...     | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | A83      | Certification requirem...  | Art. 3 The marketing ...    | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction du Commer...     | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | P43      | Export charges/fees le...  | Art. 2 The services rela... | 0102, 0103, 0104, 0106(...   | Direction Générale du...   | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | C9       | Other formalities, n.e.s.  | Art. 2 The import and ...   | 0101, 0102, 0103, 0104, ...  | Ministère de l'Agricult... | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | P33      | Licensing, permit or r...  | Art. 22 The import or ...   | 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 0... | Présidence de la Rép...    | Law No. 2009 - 01 on ...  |
| Togo                 | B31      | Labelling requiremen...    | Art 60 Any GMO and/...      | 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 0... | Présidence de la Rép...    | Law No. 2009 - 01 on ...  |
| Togo                 | B33      | Packaging requireme...     | Art. 61 All GMOs and/o...   | 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 0... | Présidence de la Rép...    | Law No. 2009 - 01 on ...  |
| Togo                 | E111     | Licensing procedure ...    | Art. 2 The import and ...   | 0101, 0102, 0103, 0104, ...  | Ministère de l'Agricult... | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | F69      | Additional charges, n...   | Art. 3 The marketing ...    | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction du Commer...     | Interministerial Order... |
| Togo                 | B31      | Labelling requiremen...    | Art. 7 The labelling of ... | 02, 030191, 030192, 03...    | Direction de l'Elevage...  | Order N° 83-08/MAEP...    |

# What do we learn from the data?



## UNCTAD (2024): Non-tariff measures and deep regulatory integration in the African Continental Free Trade Area

### → Africa-wide results

Over 7 billion US  
dollars in welfare  
gains

UNITED NATIONS  
RECOMMENDS  
following regional  
and international  
standards

Increases wages and  
grows investment

Export growth in  
processed agri-food and  
manufacturing  
→ structural  
transformation

# Conclusions

- Transparency is a necessary condition for regulatory cooperation and convergence. And has benefits in itself.
- Gains from regulatory cooperation and convergence are much bigger than those of tariff reductions
- Most countries worldwide and in Africa have already completed data collection

**...so how do we collect the data?**

# Work flow of the data collection

## A) Identifying all relevant regulations from official sources and documents

1. What type of regulations are we looking for?
2. How do we get comprehensive information?  
...and to keep up-to-date

## B) Classifying and registering the information

3. NTM classification
4. HS classification
5. Registering affected countries

**Government to take the lead**

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**UNCTAD to take the lead**

# Scope of data collection

**Currently applied**

**Affecting  
international  
trade**

**Official and  
mandatory**

**Detailed and specific**

# Affecting international trade

Currently applied

Affecting  
international  
trade

Official and  
mandatory

Detailed and specific

# UNCTAD-MAST Classification

The International NTM Classification gives a good indication of types of regulations

Also regulations that apply equally to domestic and foreign products

|         |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Imports | Technical measures     | <b>A</b> SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES<br><b>B</b> TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE<br><b>C</b> PRE-SHIPMENT INSPECTION AND OTHER FORMALITIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|         | Non technical measures | <b>D</b> CONTINGENT TRADE-PROTECTIVE MEASURES<br><b>E</b> NON-AUTOMATIC LICENSING, QUOTAS, PROHIBITIONS AND QUANTITY-CONTROL MEASURES OTHER THAN FOR SPS OR TBT REASONS<br><b>F</b> PRICE-CONTROL MEASURES, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL TAXES AND CHARGES<br><b>G</b> FINANCE MEASURES<br><b>H</b> MEASURES AFFECTING COMPETITION<br><b>I</b> TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES<br><b>J</b> DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTIONS<br><b>K</b> RESTRICTIONS ON POST-SALES SERVICES<br><b>L</b> SUBSIDIES (EXCLUDING EXPORT SUBSIDIES UNDER P7)<br><b>M</b> GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT RESTRICTIONS<br><b>N</b> INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY<br><b>O</b> RULES OF ORIGIN |
| Exports | Exports                | <b>P</b> EXPORT-RELATED MEASURES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Voluntary standards ✗

Mandatory standards ✓

## Currently applied

Currently applied

Affecting  
international  
trade

Official and  
mandatory

Detailed and specific

# Currently applied



Not the law as it was in 1990,  
Not *only* those recent amendments

# Official and mandatory / comprehensiveness

Currently applied

Affecting  
international  
trade

Official and  
mandatory

Detailed and specific

# Official and mandatory

- Identifying *all* trade-related regulations of a country is one of the biggest challenges of the data collection – but also one of the most important ones
- Every country has a different institutional framework
- Country-expertise is indispensable, no “one size fits all”-approach

## Types of official sources:



### **Centralized sources/publications**

Some countries compile and publish all their laws, regulations, acts, decrees, etc across all government institutions in one centralized publication

### **Decentralized sources**

When a centralized source is missing, regulations need to be obtained from various ministries and institutions that regulate trade  
*(it is essential to obtain all regulations from each source)*



## Detailed and specific

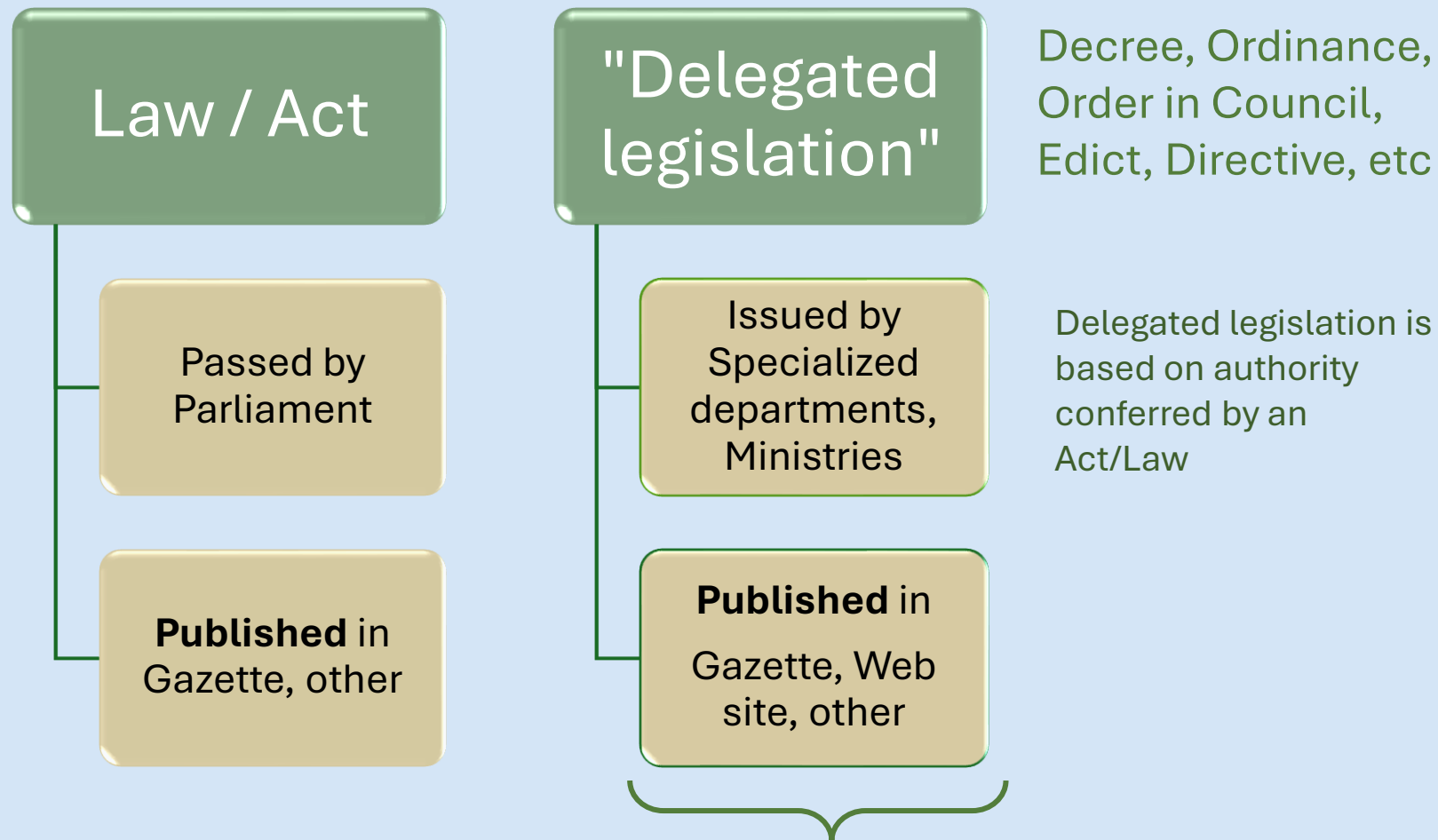
Currently applied

Affecting  
international  
trade

Official and  
mandatory

Detailed and specific

# Law and regulations



Usually, these are more specific

# Preliminary results of trade-related regulations collected by AI