

Working Party on the Programme Plan and
Programme Performance

Eighty-eighth session

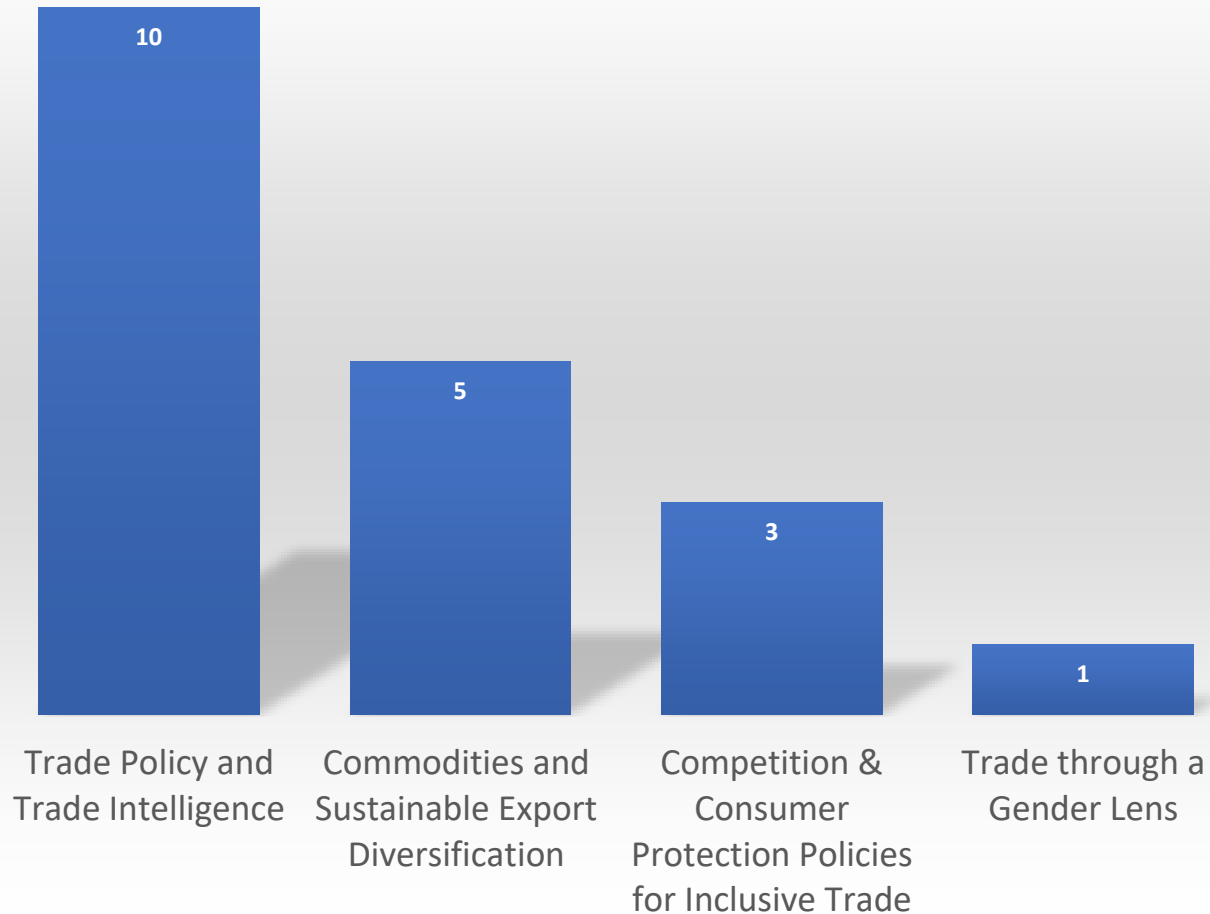
Technical Cooperation activities of the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC)

7 October 2024

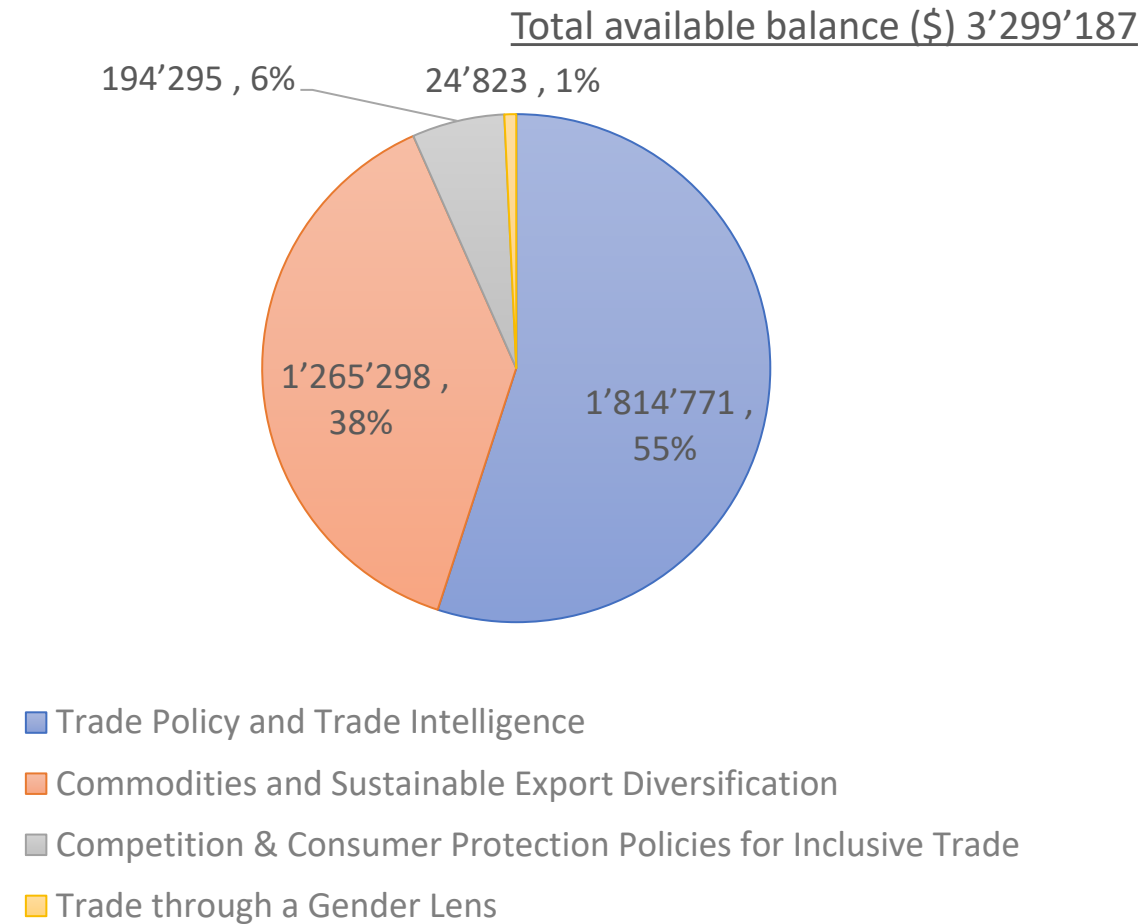
Luz María de la Mora
Director, DITC

Technical Cooperation by the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC)

19 ongoing TC Activities by DITC (as of 31 August 2024)



- Demand driven & implemented in close cooperation with beneficiary countries
- Seeking long-term impacts in capacity building
- Build on synergies between 3 pillars.



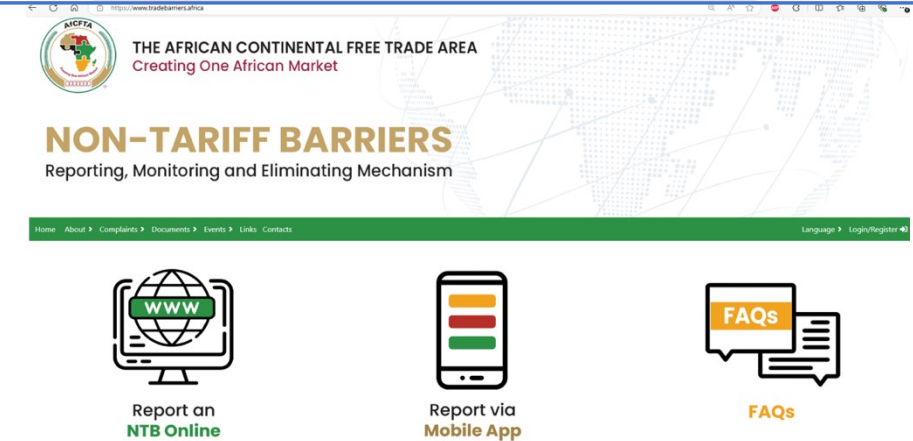
1. Trade Policy & Trade Intelligence

Increasing transparency and supporting regional trade agreement implementation

Non-tariff measures (NTM) transparency: data available for 147 countries on the [TRAINOnline](#) database

Breaking down trade barriers in Africa

- [AfCFTA Non-Tariff Barriers Online Mechanism](#) helps resolve obstacles reported by traders.
- Increased regulatory transparency through data collection in more than 30 African countries.
- Forthcoming report finds benefits of US\$ 7.1 billion when addressing non-tariff measures in the AfCFTA



CEFTA. Dispute settlement (DSM) and reducing trade costs

- ✓ Enhance regional integration and bring parties closer to EU market
- ✓ Resolve and prevent trade disputes, and reduce trade costs
- ✓ Monitor claims and resolution.

Trade policy & institutional building: The case of Iraq as a post conflict nation

- Provides capacity building and develop expertise of trade officials involved in WTO accession
- Strategic policy measures initiated to reform trade policy framework
- **Enabled Iraq to resume WTO accession negotiations in July 2024 after 16-year hiatus**



1. Trade Policy & Trade Intelligence

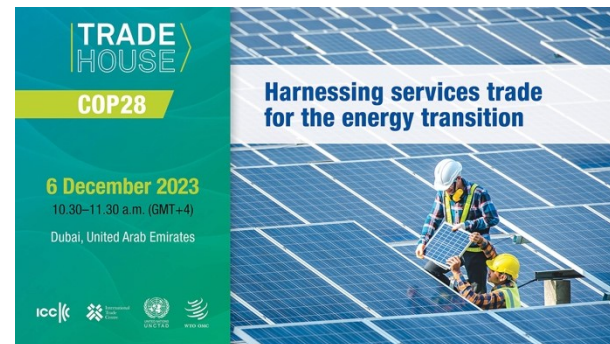
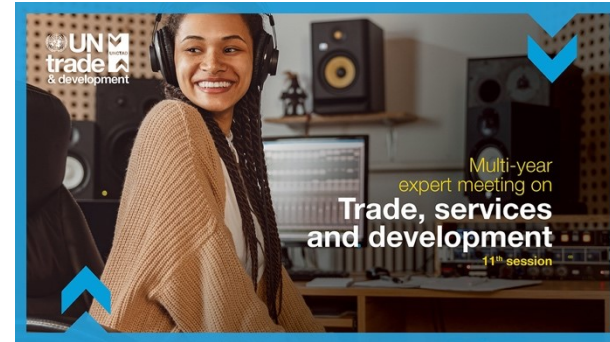
Trade in Services and Development

Strengthen capacity for evidence-based policymaking and economic resilience of CARICOM (2023-2027):

- Strengthens services trade capacity in 7 Caribbean countries
- Improves evidence-based policymaking in trade in services and economic resilience
- Benefits from UNCTAD work on Informal Working Group on Data for Services

Creative economy

- Advisory Services provided to **Ethiopia** on Creative Economy for Development

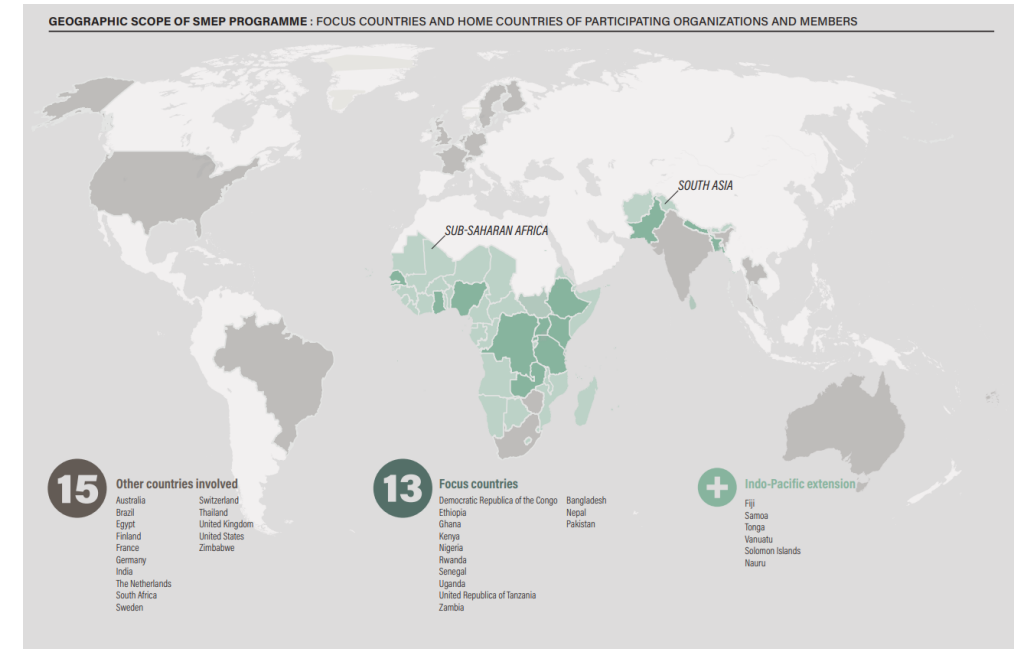


2. Commodities and Sustainable Export Diversification



Sustainable Manufacturing and Oceans Economy

Sustainable market opportunities: Development of novel fibres, business models for better e-battery provision, development of biodegradable fishing nets.



Supported +5000 stakeholders on plastics substitutes, textiles, tanneries, lead-acid battery recycling and organic waste upcycling in 2023-24

Portfolio of 23 projects in Africa, South Asia with +570 directly involved individuals by 2024

Direct support to government of Kenya & Fiji on plastic policy, control measures & non-plastic substitutes

Direct support for countries negotiating a "Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution at INC Process" (UNEA 5.2 Res) & WTO Dialogue on Plastic Pollution

Studies on plastic substitutes, including marine-based materials such as seaweed; Studies on policy levers for better e-battery management, presented in workshop to government of Bangladesh.

UK-FCDO and Portugal were donors for Sustainable Manufacturing and Oceans Programmes.

2. Commodities and Sustainable Export Diversification

Suape project: Strategic Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Global Competitiveness

Helping commodity-dependent countries identify which products to diversify into.



Objective: Identify sectors and products that align with Suape's existing production chains, increase diversification, add value, and boost exports, particularly of non-oil and gas-related products.



Results: Uncovering Suape's Potential

- 141 products identified in six priority sectors, with product-level export opportunities and key destinations based on growing import markets.
- Tapping into these products could increase the region's GDP by **\$163 million** and direct and indirect employment by **19,000 jobs**.

Way forward: Conduct this assessment in other countries, tailored to specific municipalities, cities, or at the national level.



Methodology: Economic complexity with modifications by UNCTAD allowing the identification of products at the 6-digit level with their unit price range.



Observatório
DA INDÚSTRIA

Partners

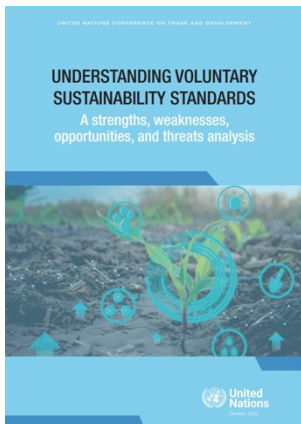
SENAI
PELO FUTURO DO TRABALHO

SUAPE
Complexo Industrial Portuário
Governador Eraldo Gueiros

2. Commodities and Sustainable Export Diversification

Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) for green trade in Pacific SIDS of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)

- 346 participants in workshops on VSS
- MSG secretariat and 4 member States validated subregional green trade action plan
- Papua New Guinea introduced new VSS for vanilla



3. Competition and Consumer protection policies for inclusive trade

Building a competition culture and competition policy in LDCs + Bhutan

Establishing robust legal frameworks for competition, fostering fair market practices, enhancing consumer protection, and promoting economic growth.

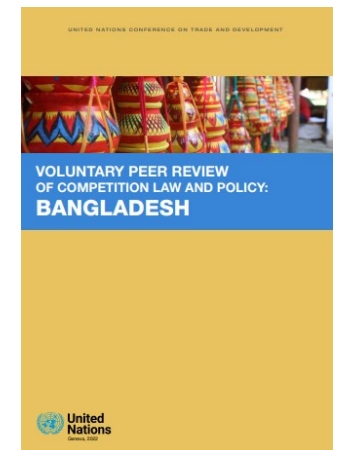
Bangladesh: Supported the implementation of Voluntary Peer Review recommendations on competition and trained new officials.

Bhutan: Webinars on competition law for new authority.

DRC: Assessed regulations, provided recommendations, and presented capacity-building programme.

Mozambique: Supported drafting of first competition leniency programme.

Timor-Leste: Assisted in drafting first competition law framework for WTO accession (2024).



3. Competition and Consumer protection policies for inclusive trade

Promoting sustainable consumption practices among consumers: Achieving SDG 12

- Sustainable consumption crucial for addressing global environmental crises
- UNCTAD co-leads Consumer Information Programme with UNEP
- Identified synergies between environmental agreements and consumer protection (Dec. 2024)
- Capacity building for Latin American consumers (Oct. 2024)
- Defining requirements for environmental impact information on products/services



4. Trade through a gender lens

Leveraging research findings to train stakeholders on new aspects of the trade and gender nexus

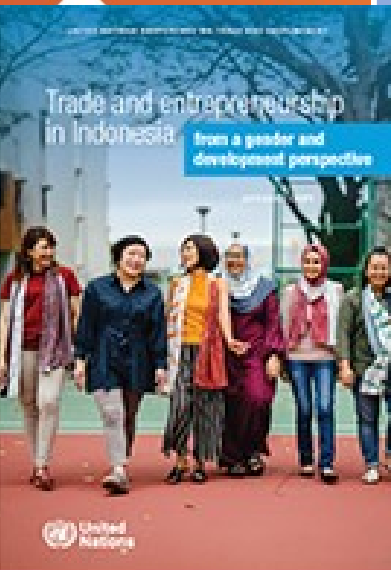


Study: *The impact of non-tariff measures on women's e-commerce businesses*

Online course: NTMs and gender (June – July 2024)

Barriers related to NTMs for women-led businesses:

- Increased regulatory burden and low capacities due to smaller firm size
- Concentration in less profitable sectors like agriculture and textiles, where NTMs are more prevalent
- Higher customs clearance time due to gendered supply-side constraints



Study: *Trade, gender and entrepreneurship in Indonesia*

Online course on trade and gender in Indonesia (Nov – Dec 2023)

Findings:

- High female entrepreneurship: more women than men owning businesses
- Participation in key sectors such as palm oil, apparel, tourism, creative economy
- Gender gaps persist – e.g. lower access to training, finance, markets; lower productivity/ profits
- Targeted support needed to boost progress

Key figures

- **27 online courses** delivered during 2015-2024
- **2,300 stakeholders** trained
- **154 beneficiary countries**
- **89%** rated the course as **Excellent or Very good**

Upcoming

- UN Development Account : ***Sustainable product export strategies and traceability*** for a green, sustainable, and inclusive economy in Asia
 - *Build sustainable products export strategies, improve traceability (deforestation), promote gender inclusiveness. Coffee, cassava starch, tapioca, cinnamon.*
 - *Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam.*

Under development – fundraising required

- Develop a primer on **data for services trade** and development policies
- Rapid Assessment of **Value Addition and Diversification Capacity in Critical Minerals**
- **Artificial Intelligence** for Strengthening Women Participation in Trade
- Competition and Consumer Policies to transform **digital markets** for development
- Requests received for assistance on Creative Economy (mapping potential+ capacity building)
- 43 pending TC requests

