



UNCTAD XIII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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UNITED NATIONS
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LUNCHTIME EVENT

THE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES

25 APRIL 2012, 12 NOON – 2 P.M

BACKGROUND

Policymakers are faced with an increasingly challenging and multifaceted trade agenda. Market access issues are shifting from traditional trade policies dominated by tariffs to non-tariff policies and measures (NTMs), particularly to those applied in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner. Measures such as product standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment systems, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, subsidies, as well as complex border and behind-the-border procedures are of particular concern to developing countries whose producers are often ill-equipped to deal with them.

PURPOSE

- Exchange views on the growing effects of NTMs on international trade and identify elements for an integrated international agenda to effectively address them.
- Discuss the way forward of the Transparency in Trade programme (implemented by UNCTAD jointly with the World Bank, African Development Bank and ITC).
- Increase awareness on the importance of NTMs in affecting international trade and on their implications for the multilateral trading system.
- This event is targeted to trade policymakers, trade promotion bodies, international organizations, regional integration groupings, and relevant NGOs.

OUTCOME

- Contribute to a better understanding among member States in formulating practical responses to confront non-tariff measures, particularly those affecting developing countries' trade.
- Identify key activity areas of the TNT initiative, including mobilization of resources.

AGENDA

Opening: Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Moderator: Guillermo Valles, Director, DITC, UNCTAD

NTMs as a Key Element of the New Trade Policy Agenda

Panelists

- Alan V. Deardoff, Professor, University of Michigan
- Anders Agero, Director, Department of Market Development, ITC
- Bernard Hoekman, Director, International Trade Department, World Bank

Dialogue

DOCUMENTS

The most recent research and analysis on NTMs will be available for participants.

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