

Experts Group Meeting on Improving transit cooperation and trade facilitation for further integration of LLDCs in global trade.

Conference Room S3, World Trade Organization, Geneva

Day 1 – Thursday, 17 October 2019

<p>11:10-11:30</p>	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of Policy Development, Coordination, and Reporting Service, UN-OHRLLS • Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD • H.E. Mr. Julio César Peralta Rodas, Chargé d'affaires a.i. Permanent Mission of Paraguay, Geneva
<p>11:30 - 13:00</p>	<p>Session 1: Overview of status of implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement by LLDCs and transit countries and implementation issues including technical assistance and capacity building opportunities</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the progress made by LLDCs and transit countries in the implementation of the TFA and will highlight gaps and challenges and technical assistance and capacity building opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS • Mr. Mark Henderson, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility, WTO • Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD • Ms. Zodwa Florence Mabuza, Principal Regional Integration Officer, African Development Bank • Mr. Khan Salehim, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
<p>13:00 - 15:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>
<p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	<p>Session 2: Access to information, transparency and fees and charges</p>

	<p>Improved transparency can improve predictability, enhance transit efficiency and lower trade costs. This session will discuss information and transparency provisions of the TFA including fees and charges and their role in enhancing efficient transit systems for the benefit of LLDCs. Participants will share experiences on the issues.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sheri Rosenow, Coordinator, Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility • Mr. Bill Gain, Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management Trade & Regional Integration Unit, WBG • Mr. Tsotetsi Makong, Trade Facilitation Expert, The Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA) • Ms. Angela Strachan, Independent Consultant • Regional and National experiences <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
<p>16:30 – 18:00</p>	<p>Session 3: Simplification and harmonization of documentation and customs procedures using international standards</p> <p>The TFA encourages Members to use relevant international standards for their import, exports or transit formalities and procedures. This session will discuss existing international standards for simplified and standardized trade documentation and will share experiences on their use. This session will also discuss ICT solutions and share best practices on exchange of information.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr John David, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD • Ms. Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, OiC Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE • STDF (TBC) • Mr. Ganhuyag Sodnom, Director General, Investment Research Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia • Regional and National experiences <p>Interactive Discussion</p>

Day 2 -Friday, 18 October 2019

10:00 – 11:00	<p>Procedure for Addressing Disputes under the Trade Facilitation Agreement</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTO Legal Affairs Division <p><i>Refer to the Program on workshops on the Margins of the Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting for details on this session.</i></p>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 4: Experiences on enhancing customs cross-border cooperation</p> <p>The TFA calls for WTO Members to cooperate and coordinate procedures at borders with neighboring countries. This session will discuss how to enhance border cooperation including on customs and other areas and the role of bilateral and regional cooperation in enhancing transit and integrating LLDCs into regional and global trade. The session will also share experiences on regional TFA Strategies.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Zodwa Florence Mabuza, Principal Regional Integration Officer, African Development Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Nnana Mmanyabela Pheto, Economic Affairs Officer UN-OHRLLS• Ms. Vyara Filipova, Technical Attaché, WCO• Dr. Paras Kharel, Research Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics, and Environment (SAWTEE)• Mr. Alcides Monteiro, Senior Programme Officer-Customs Southern African Development Community (SADC)• Ms. Isabelle Turcotte, Independent Consultant <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
12:30 - 13:00	<p>Way forward and Closing: Summary of discussions, key policy messages, and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of Policy Development, Coordination, and Reporting Service, UN-OHRLLS