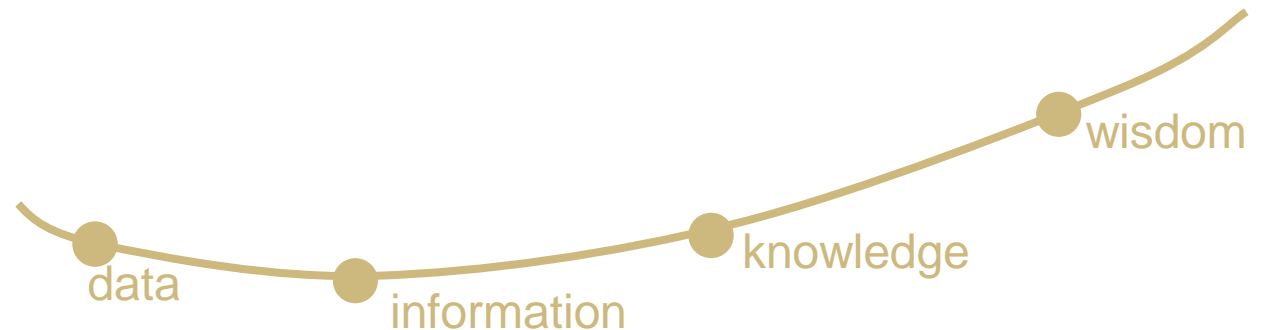




NTM and SDGs

Geneva, 14 September 2021

Christian Knebel, Seul Lee, Mingcong Li, Ralf Peters, Divya Prabhakar
UNCTAD



Direct linkages between NTMs and SDGs

- **Only few** NTMs' main objective is to restrict trade..!
- **Most** NTMs have regulatory policy objectives, such as to protect human, animal and plant health, or to protect the environment → elimination *not* an option
- Usually, applied equally to domestic producers
- They **directly** impact on sustainability
 - food security/safety (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)

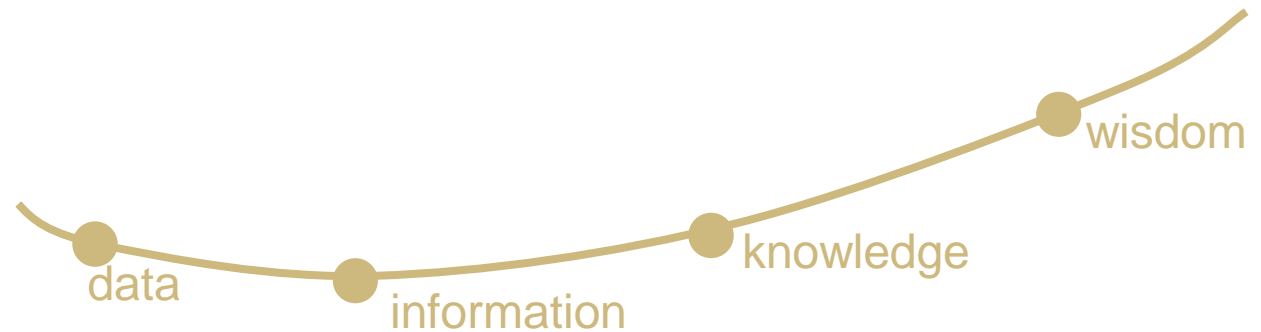




NTM-SDG Statistics

Geneva, 14 September 2021

Seul Lee
UNCTAD



Connecting SDGs and NTMs

- Direct linkages (c.f. indirect linkages)
- 1. Product connecting SDGs and NTMs



- 2. NTM clearly stating SDG Target-related objectives
 - Ban on cigarette-shaped toys in order to implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (SDG Target 3.a.)

Connecting SDGs and NTMs

- Specific linkages of SDG-HS-NTM, supported by keywords
 - E.g., SDG Target 3.5 – Food-grade alcohol – B31 (warnings)
 - E.g., SDG Target 3.a – Toys – B7 (no cigarette shape)
 - from 26 SDG targets under 9 SDGs



- The established linkages describe an intended (and positive) impact of NTMs on the achievement of SDG Targets (stated or implied).

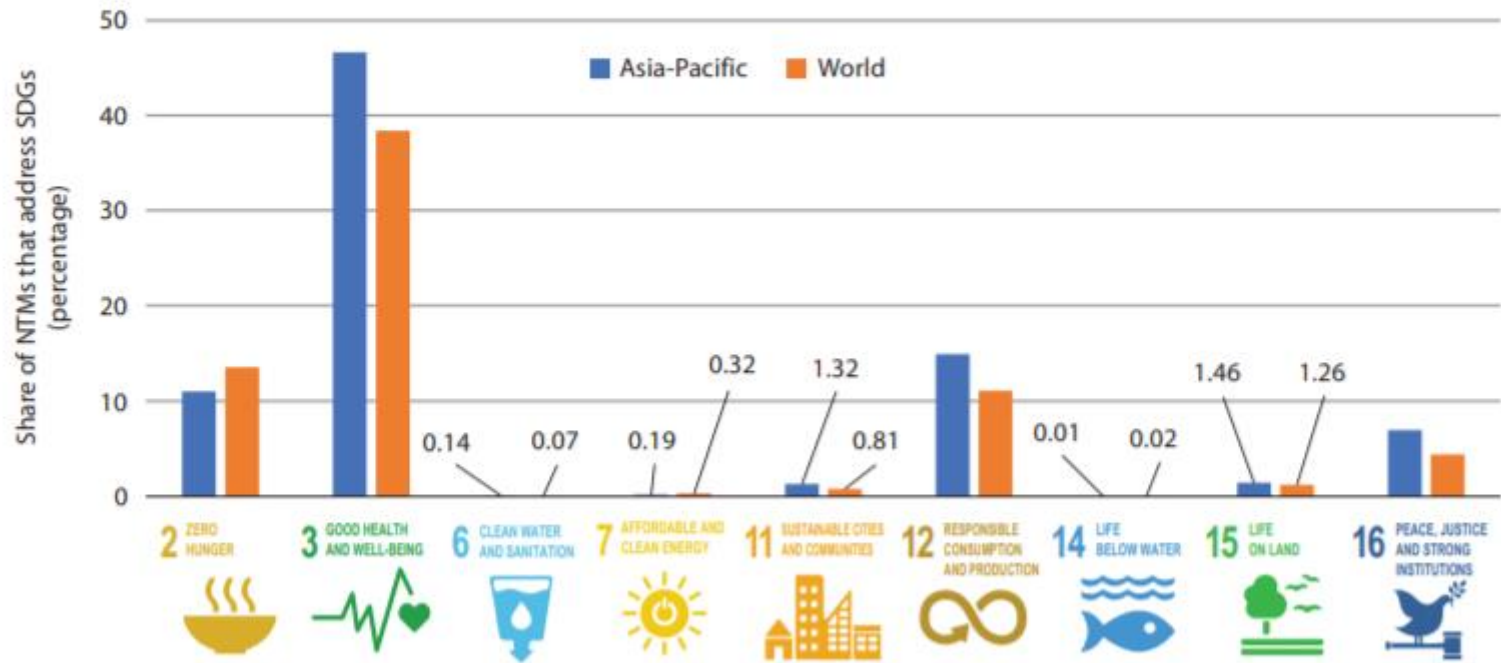


To which extent NTMs in each economy/region directly address specific SDGs?

Figure 1.4

Distribution of NTMs that directly address SDGs, by Goal

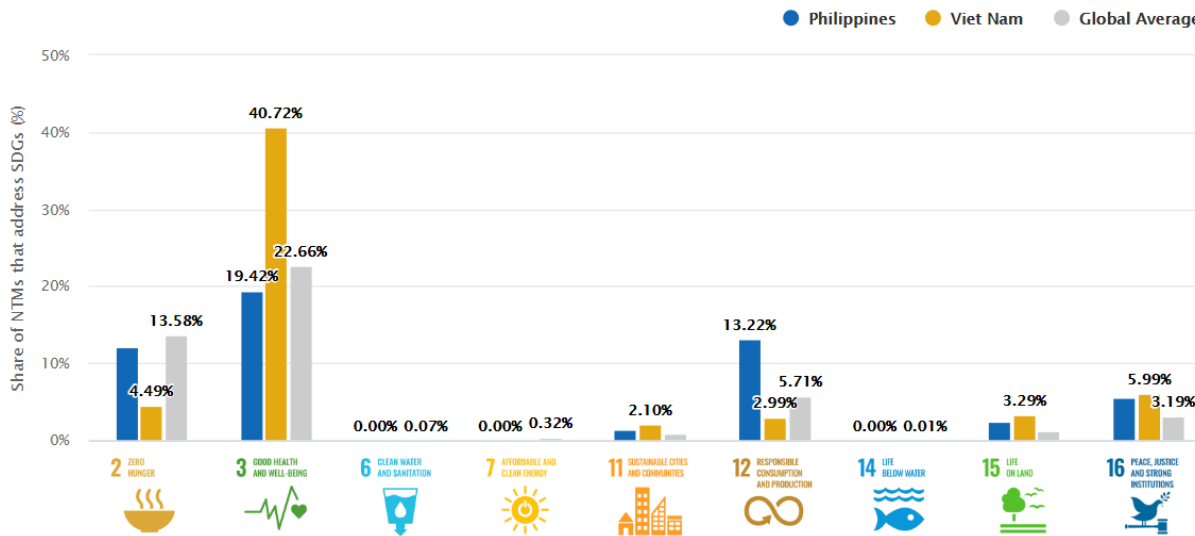
* Read with caution



Source: ESCAP calculations based on UNCTAD TRAINS database and methodology developed by ESCAP and UNCTAD (Kravchenko and others, 2019).

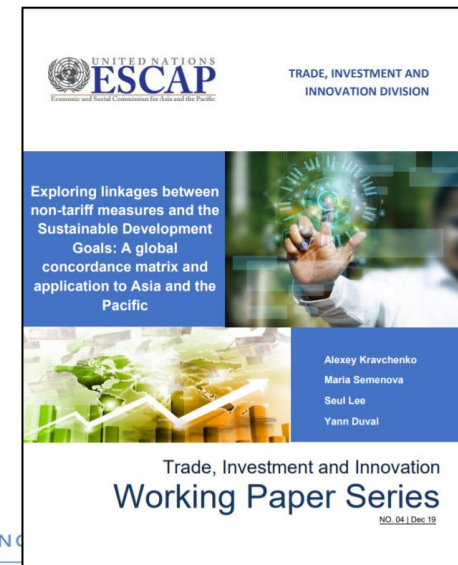
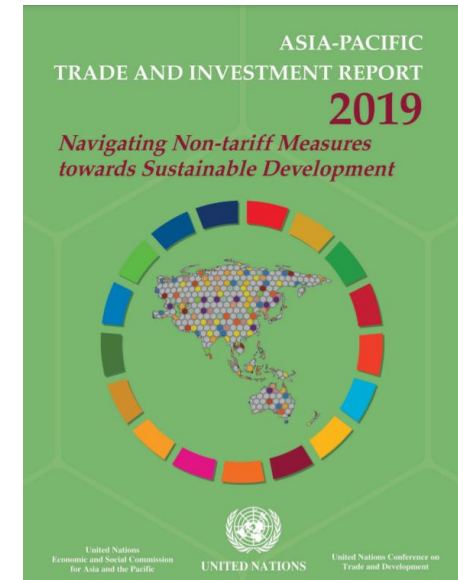
Additional information

- [TRAINS Website – NTMs and SDGs](#)



Data source: UNESCAP / UNCTAD TRAINS

- [UNCTAD Website - NTMs and SDGs](#)
- [E-learning Course on NTMs and Sustainable Development](#)



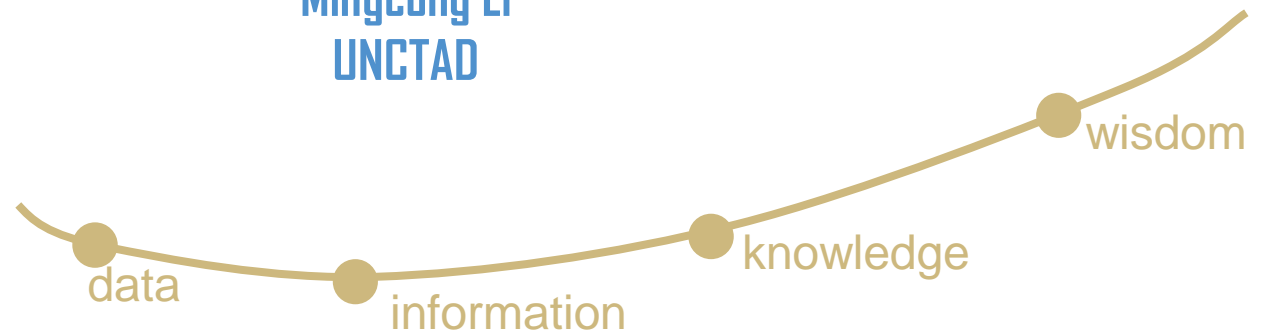


NTM and SDGs

Example: Gender

Geneva, 14 September 2021

Mingcong Li
UNCTAD



Gender and NTMs, how are they related?

- Trade can substantially improve economic outcomes for women, yet these positive effects can materialize only if the **barriers that limit their participation** in trade are minimized (World Bank, 2020)
- At the WTO ministerial conference in 2017 - 121 members endorsed the “Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade”– critical element is the **identification of barriers that limit women’s participation in trade.**
- Amongst the challenges that women are facing, **regulatory factors** can have an important bearing on access to international markets, value chain upgrading, among others. **These challenges are mostly concerned with NTMs.**

NTMs in principle:

Primary objective is to protect public health, the environment, or national security among others.

They are **gender-neutral.**

NTMs in practice:

Women and men are **not equal** when it comes to the **compliance cost** of NTMs and the **protection provided.**

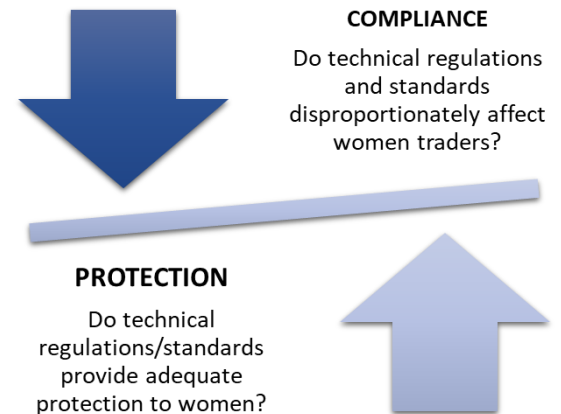


Introduction: Study promoting gender mainstreaming in NTMs-related projects

Our study “Non-tariff measures (NTMs): Gendered Perspective (forthcoming) by Divya Prabhakar and Mingcong Li”:

- Advance the discussion on the impact of NTMs on women and propose ways in which NTMs and related projects/programmes can be approached with a gender lens.
- Reaffirms that gender needs to be mainstreamed to minimize the impact of NTMs on men and women through appropriate project design, implementation and monitoring.
 - Gender mainstreaming is the globally accepted strategy for implementing global commitments on gender equality (United Nations Economic and Social Council (1997), agreed conclusions 1997/2).

NTMs and gender: The two angled approach



Note: This approach is an adaptation based on the UN Women Guidance Note on Gender Mainstreaming in Development Programming (2014).



NTMs and women:

An analysis - women as traders, workers and consumers



Women as Traders

Central theme: “Compliance” with NTMs

Key challenges: resource constraints; time and mobility constraints; lack of skills and expertise for compliance; limited access to training/information and digital divide; discrimination/harassment at borders.

Implications: limits participation in value chains; restricts business growth; limits entrepreneurship; and restricts general economic empowerment.



Women as Workers

Central theme: “Protection” during work

Key challenges: improper work gears; use of gender-neutral technical regulations/standards for protective equipment at workplace.

Implications: restricts women’s participation in male dominated industries; affects health and safety of women at workplace.



Women as Consumers

Central theme: “Protection” provided by gender sensitive technical regulations/standards

Key challenges: technical regulations/standards based on human morphology, not taking into account physical differences between men and women; inadequate technical regulations/standards in sectors accounting for a large share of women consumers; accessibility of essential products. .

Implications: risks women’s health and safety.



A practical guide – approaching NTMs related programs with a gendered lens

Gender Mapping

Qualitative and quantitative statistics collected through a variety of tools that could include literature reviews, focus groups, surveys, consultations, etc.

Needs Assessment

Identify root cause of gender inequality to ensure “gender-responsive” program design and identification of possible areas of intervention.

01
+
02
03

Policy Intervention

Improve **NTM design** (gender-sensitive), **implementation** and **compliance** – three approaches critical to gender mainstreaming.



A practical guide – breakdown

Gender Mapping

- What is the proportion of men and women in the sector or region of interest? (as traders, workers, or consumers)
- What are the roles that men and women play in a particular value chain? Are they different?
- What is the percentage of female owned SMEs/business in the sector of interest compared to men? What about the percentage of female employees?

○ **STEP 1**



A practical guide – breakdown (continued)

Needs Assessment

- What roles do women play within the value chain, as traders, consumers or workers?
- What are the needs, priorities, and interests of women and men at the local level?
- What is the level of access to resources (i.e. technical, productive and financial resources; training/seminars, etc.) for women compared to their male counterparts?
- Do the roles that women play within a value chains result to different challenges for women than they do for men? *(For instance - if more women are involved in at-home processing activities, they may be exposed to different health hazards than men)*
- **What is the root cause of the challenges?**
 - Do the technical regulations/standards account for biological and cultural differences between men and women? (Protection)
 - Are the regulations/standards well implemented without harassment to women (Protection)
 - Are products for women regulated at all? (Protection)
 - Are women traders, workers and consumers well informed about NTM information and compliance requirements through internet-based platforms/ tools or capacity building training? Do they have access to digital technologies and finance? (Compliance)
 - Do women find it difficult to trade due to stringent technical regulations/standards(Compliance)?
- **Is the root cause at the NTM design level; implementation level; or compliance level?**

STEP 2



A practical guide – breakdown (continued)

Policy Interventions/Solutions

Depending on the root causes identified, how can NTMs be designed or implemented better; and how can compliance with them be enhanced to ensure that women are not disproportionately affected?

- **Design**
 - Examining existing standards/technical regulations to make sure they are not gender-sensitive.
 - Redesigning technical regulations/standards to suit the distinct needs of women based on a gender-based criteria that takes into account biological and cultural differences.
 - Putting in place adequate technical regulations/standards for risky activities in which women are involved to ensure their safety and well-being: eg: food processing.
 - Promote training materials and exchange of best practices with other sectors, regions or countries.
- **Implementation**
 - Enhanced training of officials (implementation, inspection and custom), including workshops to raise awareness of gender issues; not only at the main formal border crossings but especially at the border crossings used by informal traders.
- **Compliance**
 - Designing capacity building programs with gendered considerations i.e. providing training suited to the needs of women and men.
 - Ensuring that women' participation in training by creating incentives as necessary.
 - Ensuring that any tools and programs designed for traders can be easily and directly accessed by women.
 - Creating platforms for reporting complaints on harassments.

STEP 3



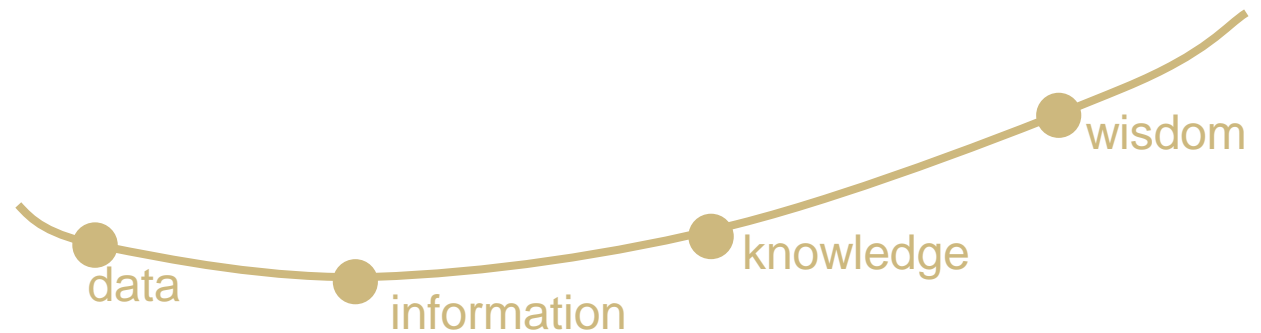


NTM and SDGs

Example: Health/Covid-19

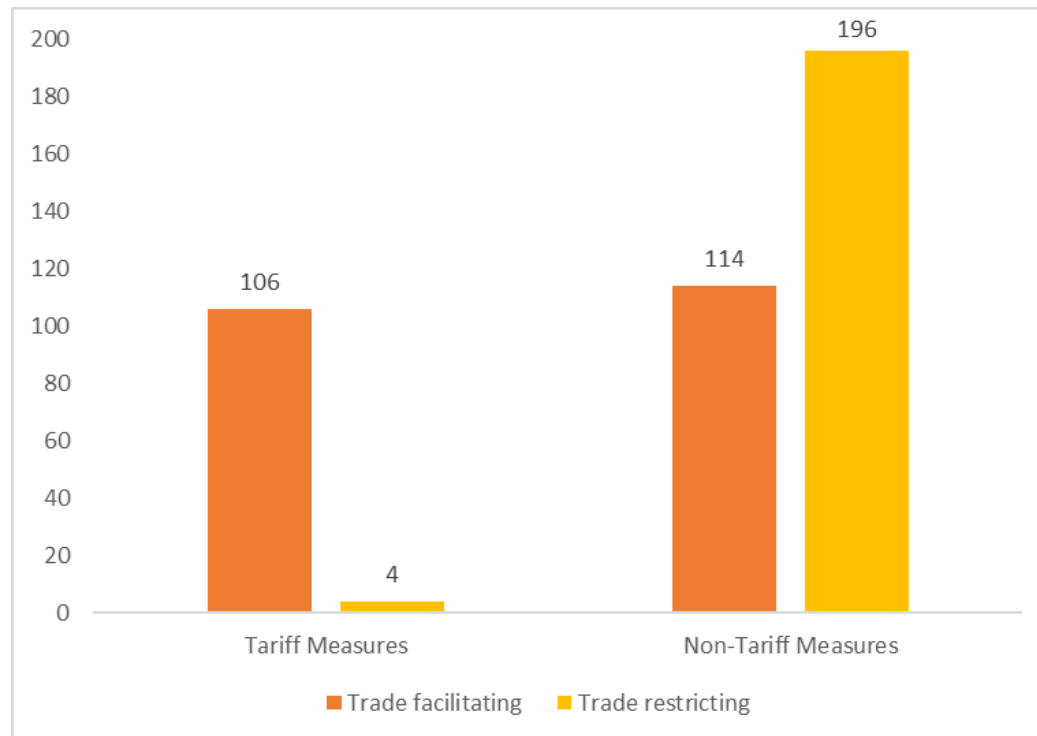
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Seul Lee
UNCTAD



Trade Measures during the Covid-19 pandemic

- From January 2020 to June 2021, over 140 countries have introduced approx. 420 trade measures in response to Covid 19.
- 26% are tariff measures, while 74% are non-tariff measures.



Non-Tariff Measures during the Covid-19 pandemic

< Examples >



Various import measures;
Export prohibitions

Export/import prohibitions

Technical requirements for
export/import

Tax exemption or deferral;
Import prohibition
(Domestic industry
protection?)

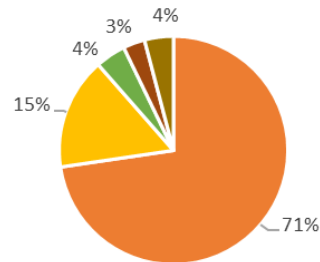


Non-Tariff Measures during the Covid-19 pandemic - SDGs

- SDGs



- Products



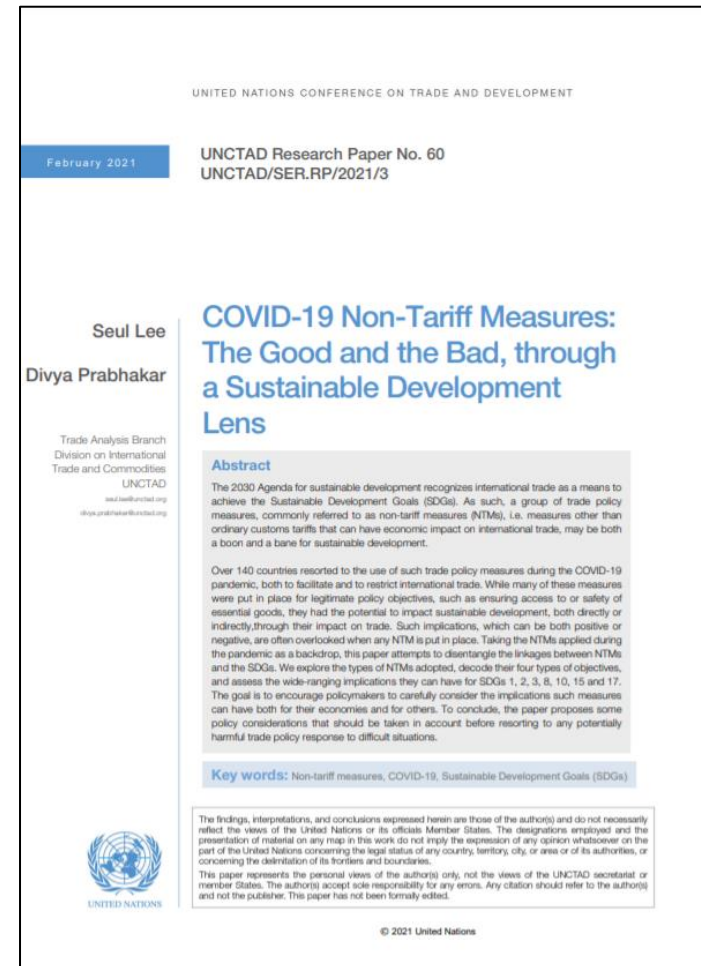
- Medical/personal protective
- Essential food products
- Potential carriers: meat, live animals, used textiles
- Other non-essential goods
- All/wide range of products

And Process!
(Limited transparency,
coordination and clarity)



Summary and Additional Information

- More NTMs than tariff measures
 - Facilitating: Export/import prohibitions
 - Restricting: Tax exemptions or deferral
- Mainly for the objective of ensuring domestic supplies of essential goods
- SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 15
 - Through agricultural and medical goods
- SDG 17
 - Through the process
- [UNCTAD Website - COVID-19 and NTMs](#)

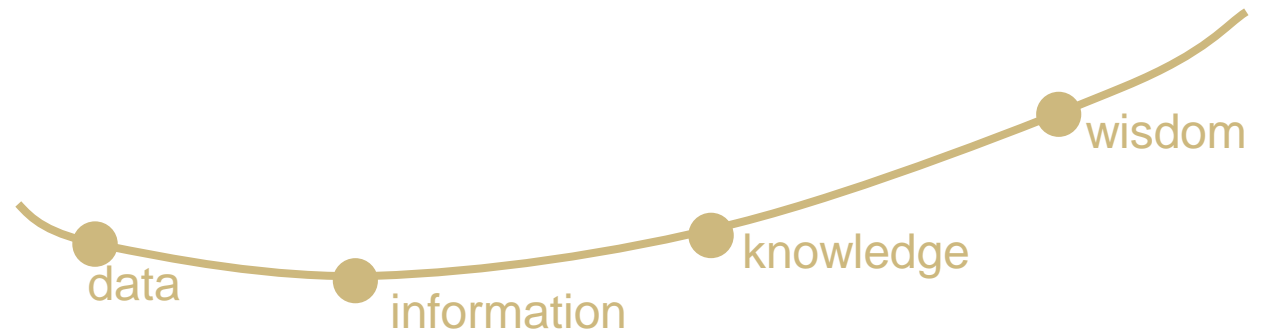




Trade costs

Geneva, 14 September 2021

Christian Knebel
UNCTAD



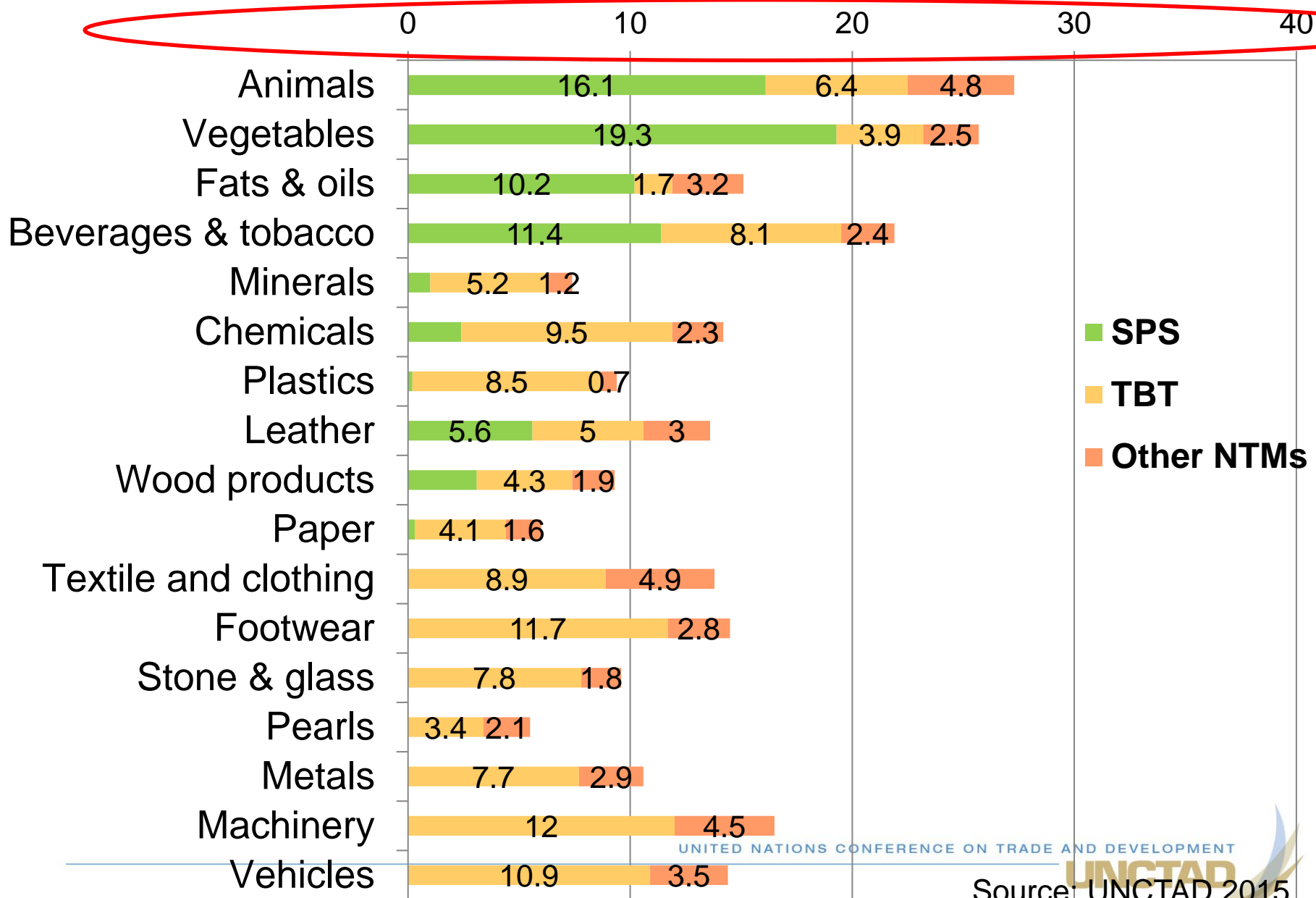
Indirect linkages between NTMs and SDGs

- NTMs seen as **trade costs**
 - Trade costs reduce trade opportunities
 - And therefore reduce trade's potential to
 - generate income
 - create employment
 - reduce poverty
 - create financial resources to promote social and environmental sustainability
- “trade – growth nexus” or “export led growth”
 - export **AND** import perspectives are relevant!



NTMs as barriers *to trade*

Global ad-valorem equivalent of different NTMs



What may turn technical NTMs into "barriers"?

Procedural implementation

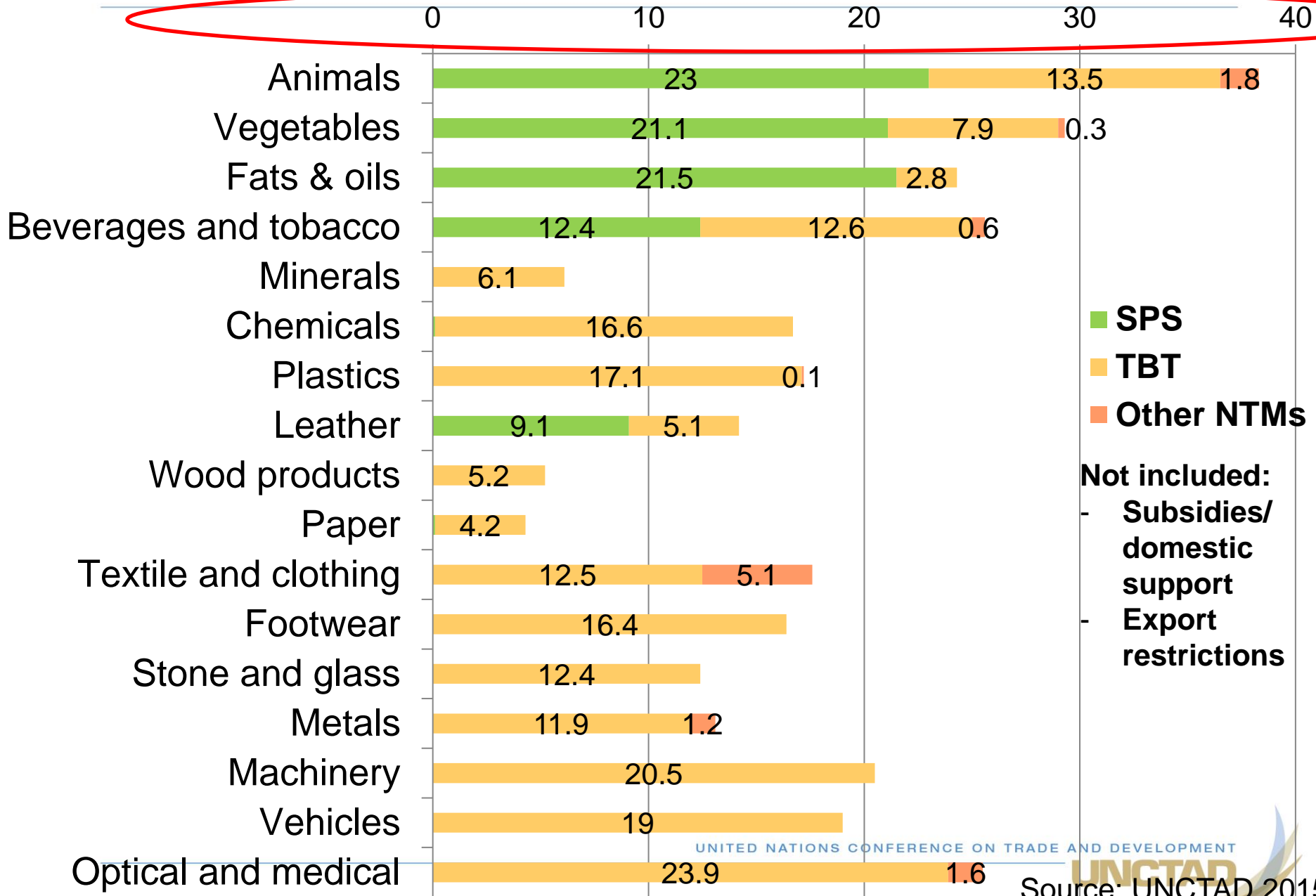


requirement

- Lack of transparency/
information costs
- Conformity assessment
 - Lack of domestic technical infrastructure
 - Lack of mutual recognition
 - Redundant checks
-
- More stringent requirement than international standards
- Not science-based
- Lack of harmonization of requirements
- (fulfilling SPS Agreement..)



Looking at barriers *abroad*: e.g. EU import NTMs



Looking at barriers *at home*

Who pays the price?

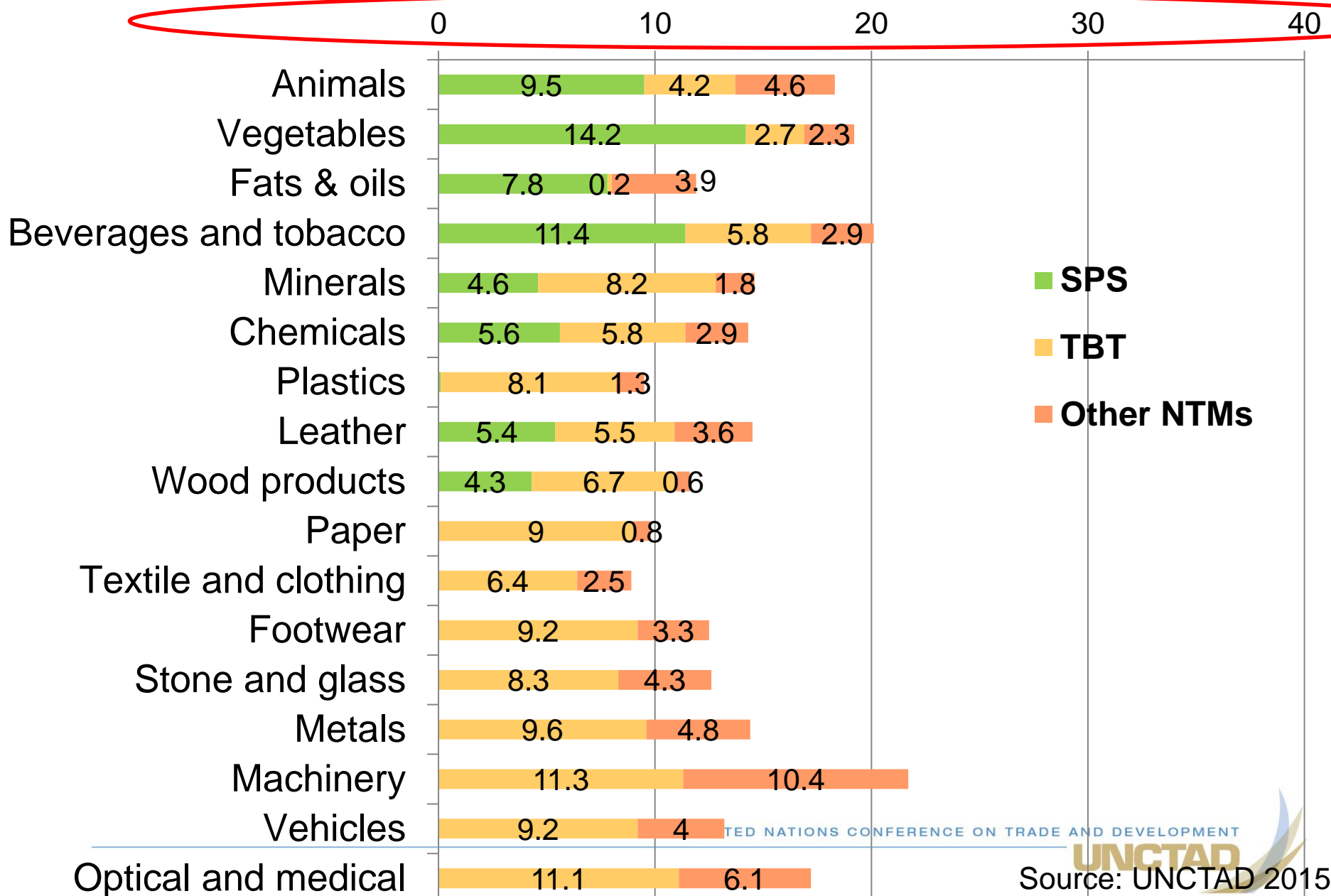
COMSUMERS

- 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. engines for car production*)
 - Protection of domestic inputs suppliers?? (*engines*)
 - Increased production cost of final product (*car*)
 - **Loss of competitiveness** of domestic producer in final product market (*car market*)
 - Pass-through of **higher prices to consumers**

Looking at obstacles *at home*: e.g. average African AVEs



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