



COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva

Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Knowledge Development Branch

Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

Trade facilitation and non-tariff measures:

How to ensure access to essential goods such as food and medical products

Thursday, 15 September 2022

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

and the Division on Technology and Logistics

UNCTAD

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XXIV
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome address, Dr. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, the Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, TBC Short course will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer / Chief, Policy Capacity Building Section	
10:15 - 11:30	Session 1 The first session will provide an overview of the recent and current shocks and the disruptions they caused in the global value chains and attaining food security. This demonstrates the importance of linkages between trade facilitation and non-tariff measures, capturing trade, safety, and health and their interrelatedness. Efficient and transparent trade is a necessary condition for addressing global shocks in general and for the availability of essential goods, such as, food and medical products in all countries at reasonable prices, in particular. Presented by Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Economic Affairs Officer; Trade Facilitation Section, Division on Technology and Logistics; and Mr. Ralf Peter, Chief, Economic Affairs Office, OIC Trade Analysis Branch, UNCTAD Q&A	
11:30 - 13:00	Session 2 The second session will zoom on the digital tools of UNCTAD in the field of trade facilitation and trade information portals. Digital tools can deepen knowledge on non-tariff measures and ensure the transparency and effectiveness of trade-related regulations, and to facilitate trade and support regional integration. Additionally, examples of cutting-edge approaches in Africa, under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, to address non-tariff barriers and how regional trade can be strengthened will be shared. Presented by Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Economic Affairs Officer; Trade Facilitation Section, Division on Technology and Logistics; Mr. Ralf Peters, Economic Affairs Office, OIC Trade Analysis Branch; and Christian Knebel, Economic Affairs Officer UNCTAD. Q&A	

Trade facilitation and non-tariff measures:

How to ensure access to essential goods such as food and medical products

Recent and current shocks such as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, as well as related disruptions in global value chains and the food security crisis, demonstrate the importance of and linkages between trade and safety and health. Efficient and transparent trade is a necessary condition for the availability of essential goods such as food and medical products in all countries at reasonable prices. The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Underscore the importance of trade facilitation and innovative approaches, to reduce bureaucratic procedures at borders and support efficient trade procedures
- Provide an overview of the digital tools of UNCTAD in the field of trade facilitation, such as the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and trade information portals
- Provide an understanding of non-tariff measures, to ensure the transparency and effectiveness of trade-related regulations that affect all trade procedures
- Present transparency initiatives to ease access to information on trade procedures and regulations, to facilitate trade for small and medium-sized enterprises and support regional integration
- Highlight the example of the cutting-edge approach in Africa, under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, to address non-tariff barriers and how regional trade can be strengthened

Poul Hansen, UNCTAD



Chief, Trade Facilitation, Poul Hansen is responsible for UNCTAD's Trade Facilitation portfolio. Poul has extensive experience in trade and transport facilitation, having worked more than 20 years in the UN system on issues such as international trade, transportation, transit, international standards etc. He previously worked at the UNECE as Secretary for the TIR and International Harmonization Conventions. Poul also has extensive experience in international sports policy having headed UN's Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

Prior to joining the UN, Poul worked for more than 10 years in the private sector in public affairs, management consulting and logistics with organizations such as EY, Freight Forward Europe, the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Ziegler Group, and the Danish Transport and Logistics Federation. Poul has done both master and bachelor studies in Business Administration and International Law from the Aarhus University and the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. Poul is a certified logistics manager.

Ralf Peters, UNCTAD



Ralf Peters is the Chief of UNCTAD's Trade Intelligence Section and Officer-in-Charge of the Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities. He has extensive experience in supporting developing countries with quantitative trade analysis for well-informed policy decisions as well as bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. He leads the UN's data work as well as capacity building efforts on trade related regulations including tariffs and non-tariff measures. Before joining the UN, he was assistant professor for negotiation analysis and entrepreneurship. He has a master's degree in economical mathematics and holds a Ph.D. in economics.

Christian Knebel , UNCTAD



Christian Knebel is an Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD. He manages technical cooperation projects and provides advisory services on trade policy and negotiation strategy. Specializing on research regarding non-tariff measures and regulatory cooperation, he has drafted reports on the AfCFTA, ECOWAS, SADC, ASEAN and MERCOSUR. He was a visiting lecturer at the World Trade Institute. Previously, he worked at the International Trade Centre where he conducted and analysed private sector surveys on obstacles to trade in various countries. He studied International Economics at the University of Tübingen, Germany, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina.