



**P166 SHORT COURSES
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 regulations in the twenty-first century: Non-tariff measures, trade costs and sustainable development

Friday, 14 September 2018

Delivered by the Division on International Trade and Commodities

PROGRAMME

| Geneva, Palais des Nations | | Room XXVI |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| 10:00 - 10:15 | <p>Opening remarks by Mr. Bonapas Onguglo, Head of the Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities</p> <p><i>Sessions will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Project Coordinator, Policy Capacity Building Section</i></p> | |
| 10:15 - 11:45 | <p>Session 1</p> <p>This session will introduce UNCTAD's work on non-tariff measures (NTMs). The definition and classification will shed light on the wide array of policies that are NTMs. The session will assess the current lack of transparency in trade regulations and its impact on exporters, importers and policymakers. It will offer solutions including the efforts of mapping global NTM data.</p> <p>The session will then look at the trade impact of NTMs with particular regard to developing countries. The important linkages between NTMs and the economic pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals will be discussed.</p> <p><i>Q&A session</i></p> <p><i>Presented by Ralf Peters, Chief Trade Information Section; and Alessandro Nicita, Chief Research Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</i></p> | |
| 11.45 - 12.00 | Coffee break | |
| 12.00 - 13.00 | <p>Session 2</p> <p>This session will focus on sanitary, phytosanitary and technical measures that directly impact the social and environmental pillars of the SDGs. Regulatory cooperation and international standards will be discussed as solutions to find the right balance between reducing trade costs and maintaining the protection of health and the environment.</p> <p><i>Q&A session</i></p> <p><i>Presented by Christian Knebel, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</i></p> | |

Trade regulations in the twenty-first century: Non-tariff measures, trade costs and sustainable development

Non-tariff measures affect our daily lives: packaging requirements and limits on the use of pesticides ensure safe food; restrictions on toxins in toys protect our children; and emission standards for cars, which have an impact on climate change. Although most of non-tariff measures serve legitimate policy objectives, they often raise costs that can create hurdles to trade and economic development. In most sectors, the restrictiveness of non-tariff measures by far exceeds current tariffs. Particularly in agricultural sectors, developing country exporters face non-tariff measures equivalent to tariffs higher than 20 per cent.

This course will inform delegates on the interfaces between non-tariff measures and the Sustainable Development Goals, to assist policymakers in designing appropriate trade policies and to introduce tools to strengthen regulatory cooperation. The course will explore the findings of UNCTAD work on non-tariff measures, which encompasses mapping of non-tariff measures data and analysis of trade and welfare impacts.

Non-tariff measures have become a major challenge for exporters, importers and policymakers. One challenge is the lack of transparency in trade regulations, as requirements are often buried in legal texts that are difficult to access. The second challenge is to understand the implications of such regulations on economic, social and environmental goals. Lack of transparency and challenges to complying by small and medium-sized producers are not neutral and lead to de facto discrimination. A third challenge is to enhance regulatory cooperation because differences in non-tariff measures are a major burden for smaller producers and lower income countries.

Ralf Peters is the Chief of the Trade Information Section in the Trade Analysis Branch of UNCTAD. He coordinates and conducts work on trade data and trade control measures (tariffs and non-tariff measures) as well as on capacity building for trade policy makers. For several years, he was in UNCTAD's Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch supporting developing countries in multilateral and regional trade negotiations. From 2009 to 2010 Mr. Peters was Chief Technical Advisor at the ILO for trade and employment. Before he joined UNCTAD he was Project Coordinator at the Centre for European Economic Research and Assistant Professor for economics. Mr Peters studied in Germany and the UK, has a master degree in mathematical economics and holds a Ph.D. in international economics.

Alessandro Nicita is the Chief of the Research Section of the Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD. Before his present position he worked as an economist at the World Bank. His expertise focuses on issues related to international trade and development. His work has included the measurement of the effects of trade policies, the analysis of policies improving market access for developing countries, as well as the effect of trade policies on poverty and inequality. He has authored several publications in the field of international trade and economic development.

Christian Knebel is an Economic Affairs Officer in the Trade Analysis Branch at UNCTAD. He specialises in research and capacity building on trade policy, particularly non-tariff measures (NTMs). In technical cooperation projects he has supported "deep" integration efforts in several regional trade agreements. Previously, he worked at the Market Analysis and Research section of the International Trade Centre (ITC). He authored reports about obstacles to trade faced by companies in various countries and assisted governments in addressing such barriers. He holds a Masters in International Economics from University of Tübingen, Germany, and also studied in Buenos Aires, Argentina.