



INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Venue: Banjul, The Gambia

Date: 2 April 2015

CONCEPT NOTE

TNCB Inter-Institutional Committee meeting

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ECOWAS Trade Negotiation Capacity Building (TNCB) project is funded by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). It is designed to overcome some obstacles to the efforts of ECOWAS member states to intervene effectively in international negotiations and multilateral trade agreements. It also aims to build the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission to negotiate on behalf of its member states. In practice, this will take into account: the development of know-how negotiators, increased bargaining skills to intervene in specific areas such as intellectual property and trade in services; and the development of skills in international trade negotiation.
2. The Trade Negotiation Capacity Building (TNCB) project is in its second phase. During this phase, the project has worked to set up and/or operationalise Inter-Institutional Committees (IICs) in 15 ECOWAS countries.
3. The IIC functions as a platform to:
 - Analyze the Trade Policy and negotiation strategies
 - Prepare and support trade negotiations
 - Coordinate and build consensus on trade related issues between Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Private Sector, Academic structures, civil society and other stakeholders.
4. The IICs are closely linked to the Trade Directorate at the ECOWAS Commission to ensure that there is regular communication between policy makers at regional and national levels; and regional and national policies are fully consistent and coherent.
5. IICs therefore constitute an essential element not only in the sustainability of trade policy reforms, but also a permanent and structured framework that fosters a participatory dialogue in the decision-making of trade policy in ECOWAS Member States.
6. In the exercise of their function, IICs hold an annual meeting during which the TNCB provides logistical support and expertise needed to build their capacity and make them more efficient and more operational sustainable ways.

II. OBJECTIVES

7. The main objective of the IIC meeting is to review the functioning of the IIC and assess its future needs. The meeting will also have the opportunity to consider key regional initiatives, as well as topical international issues.
8. ECOWAS will provide logistical and technical assistance support to The Gambia to organize the meeting and formulate recommendations.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

- a. The IIC meeting is organized and hosted
- b. Dialogue among IIC members on functioning of IIC and trade-related issues
- c. Deliberations are held and recommendations made on, inter-alia, functioning of IIC and aspects of The Gambia's Trade Policy

- d. Identification of capacity building needs for the IIC for effective coordination and implementation of trade-related policies.

IV. PARTICIPATION AND SPONSORSHIP

9. The meeting will be attended by forty (40) IIC members, the ECOWAS Commission, as well as any persons invited or resources.
10. The ECOWAS Commission will sponsor the participation of Forty (40) designated officials as identified and communicated by the Ministry of Trade, Regional Integration and Employment, The Gambia.
11. The sponsorship delegates will be paid a transportation allowance of \$40. Refreshments will be provided during the course of the meeting.

V. VENUE AND DATE

12. The meeting will be held in Banjul. The specific venue will be communicated in due course.

VI. METHODOLOGY

13. The IIC meeting will be divided into various sessions as detailed in the agenda annexed to this Concept note. During each session, participants will have the opportunity to exchange view and share experiences. All sessions will be held in plenary.

VII. WORKING DOCUMENTS

14. The working papers are:
 - Concept note
 - Draft Agenda and Work programme
 - Terms of Reference for IIC

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION

15. For more information on the organization of the workshop you are kindly requested to direct all your inquiries to Ms Yemisi IDOWI, Email: okuyemiid@yahoo.com.