



WTO OMC

ECOWAS- WTO SHORT TRADE POLICY COURSE

Venue: Lagos, Nigeria

Date: 23 – 25 July 2014

CONCEPT NOTE

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TNCB – WTO Short Trade Policy Course

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ECOWAS Trade Negotiation Capacity Building (TNCB) project is co-funded by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). It is designed to overcome 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.
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. Furthermore the TNCB project is expect to build capacity of ECOWAS officials to negotiate on behalf of Member States.
3. The WTO is one of the cornerstones of international economic regulation. It provides its Members with a common set of multilateral trade rules, which have become indispensable, as globalization creates commercial interdependence, which is a factor for growth, development and poverty reduction. The multilateral trading system is in a period of transition. Shifting economic circumstances, major advances in technology and the emergence of new influential players on the global scene have necessitated the strengthening of the multilateral trading system so as to ensure that it fully meets the challenges of the 21st century.
4. The ECOWAS Commission was established to promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa, through inter-alia the establishment of a common market. Recent achievements include the adoption of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff and Common Investment Code.
5. Governments recognize that they need officials who can enhance their country's ability to fully participate in the trade negotiations, and to use regional integration and the WTO system to further social and economic development.

II. OBJECTIVES

6. This short training course will provide an introduction to the WTO system, including the economic and legal rationale behind its main disciplines and the relationship between the different WTO Agreements. The course will focus on the WTO as a forum for negotiations, and also cover the main issues in the current Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in relation to further market openings.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

7. The participants will be provided with:
 - a. basic analytical tools to analyse the effects of trade policy on economic performance including the linkages between trade policy and development;
 - b. knowledge about the institutions and processes that shape trade policy, particularly the WTO (WTO agreements, achievements of the Uruguay Round and the DDA) and ECOWAS (Instruments of the ECOWAS Common Market).

IV. PARTICIPATION AND SPONSORSHIP

8. The meeting will be attended by ECOWAS Member States, ECOWAS Institutions, as well resources persons.
9. The ECOWAS Commission will sponsor the participation of designated officials as identified and communicated to the Commission. The sponsorship will cover perdiem and travel.

V. VENUE AND DATE

10. The meeting will be held in Lagos on 23 – 25 July 2014. The specific venue will be communicated in due course.

VI. METHODOLOGY

11. ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with the WTO, is organizing the Short Trade Policy Course. The three-day meeting will be divided into various sessions. During each session, participants will have the opportunity to exchange views and share experiences. All sessions will be held in plenary.
12. The course will be conducted in English and French and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION

13. 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.