

Enhancing the Contribution of Preferential Trade Agreements To Inclusive and Equitable Trade

Expert Group Meeting

Developing Datasets and Indicators to Monitor the Performance of Preferential Trade Agreements with Regards to Inclusive Trade and other Aspects of Sustainable Development

13.30 hours, 20 June 2017

Meeting Room B, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

Background and objectives

Expanding trade and investment has driven growth in many developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, contributing to major reductions in poverty and improvements in overall welfare. However, many other developing countries have not benefited from trade to the same extent, much less all groups and individuals within countries. These countries require assistance in fostering further economic and social development, through better market access and further development of productive and supply capacity. For this purpose, the Development Account Ninth tranche project “Enhancing the Contribution of Preferential Trade Agreements to Inclusive and Equitable Trade” has focused on preferential trade agreements as having the potential to promote growth, employment, and social welfare.

Thus far, the main focus of the project has been capacity building through national training workshops with the goal of increasing the understanding of government officials and trade negotiators of the potential benefits and costs of liberalization through preferential trade agreements, as well as how to manage these impacts. The overall goal of the project is to enable government officials and trade negotiators to formulate preferential trade agreements which may lead to more inclusive outcomes. National training workshops have been held in Bangladesh, Mongolia, Myanmar and Viet Nam to work towards this goal, while comments and feedback on the training materials have been taken on-board. The training materials will then be formulated into an e-learning course which will be shared online for all users.

Looking forward, to support the efforts of developing countries in understanding the potential impacts from liberalization through preferential trade agreements, and in forming evidence-based policies, more datasets and indicators are required to enable developing countries to better track the performance of preferential trade agreements with regards to inclusive trade and other aspects of sustainable development. The purpose of this Expert Group Meeting is to:

- i) identify channels through which preferential trade agreements may cause trade to be more, or less, inclusive;
- ii) discuss potential indicators to monitor these impacts;
- iii) identify datasets which can be used to underpin development of those indicators; and
- iv) discuss issues of maintaining the datasets and indicators up-to-date after the completion of the project.

Similar indicators/datasets (non-exhaustive list)

The Hinrich Foundation Sustainable Trade Index (2016)
<http://hinrichfoundation.com/sustainable-trade-index/>

The 2016 Inclusiveness Index Report- Haas Institute
<http://haasinstitute.berkeley.edu/inclusivenessindex>

Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA) Database
<https://www.designoftradeagreements.org/>

Inclusive and Sustainable Transformation: An Index (Justin Yifu Lin, Célestin Monga, and Samuel Standaert) – African Development Bank Group
<https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/document/working-paper-257-the-inclusive-and-sustainable-transformation-index-95590/>

International trade and inclusive development: Building synergies - ECLAC
<http://www.cepal.org/en/publications/37040-international-trade-and-inclusive-development-building-synergies>

Framework of Inclusive Growth Indicators - ADB
<https://www.adb.org/publications/framework-inclusive-growth-indicators-2014-key-indicators-asia-and-pacific>

OECD Inclusive growth
<https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/>

Inclusive Growth: Measurement and Determinants – IMF WP/13/135
<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2013/wp13135.pdf>

The Inclusive Growth and Development Report 2017: inclusive development index - WEF
<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-inclusive-growth-and-development-report-2017>

Global Enabling Trade Report - WEF
<http://reports.weforum.org/global-enabling-trade-report-2016/>

World Development Indicators – World Bank
<http://wdi.worldbank.org/tables>

Provisional list of participants

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