



Pilot Course Negotiating RTAs for Trade in times of crisis and pandemic

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

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Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

SPS/TBT = Regulatory measures to meet domestic non-trade concerns (e.g., health and safety)

RTAs = Provide frameworks for regulatory cooperation among member countries

→ RTAs on SPS/TBT – Huge potential to facilitate trade flows in health emergencies → Time & Cost saving

SPS/TBT measures during COVID

[COVID-19 Non-Tariff Measures \(UNCTAD, February 2021\)](#)

- Countries exempted SPS/TBT to facilitate emergency import
- Exempted requirements include certification, quality control, safety or performance control, conformity assessment,
- Measures linked to SPS/TBT, e.g., pre-shipment inspections, non-automatic import licensing

RTAs for trade in emergencies

[Model RTA provisions on SPS/TBT \(UNCTAD, March 2021\) \(Presentation at Policy Hackathon\)](#)

- Only few RTAs refer to regu.coop for medical supplies; No RTA with provisions for emergencies
- RTAs can help members prepare for regu.coop (e.g., MR, Equivalence, Harmonization) in emergencies
- E.g., Define situations to be recognized public health emergency; Pre-identify products for regu.coop in emergency • Provide a timeframe for regu.coop

RTAs and RC for Vaccines

[Measures to facilitate COVID vaccine flows \(WTO, July 2021\)](#)

- Trade of COVID vaccine and inputs = subjects to SPS/TBT procedures → RTAs can help simplify procedures
- RC can help facilitate a fast-track distribution of vaccines, e.g., African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH), ASEAN harmonized drug registration

Source:

- **COVID-19 Non-Tariff Measures: The Good and the Bad, through a Sustainable Development Lens**, UNCTAD Research Paper No. 60 UNCTAD/SER.RP/2021/3, February 2021. (https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ser-rp-2021d3_en.pdf)
- **Improving Access to Medical Products through Trade: What can regional trade agreements do in times of crisis?** UNCTAD, March 2021. (file:///C:/Users/Shirotori/OneDrive%20-%20United%20Nations/01%20TNCDB/Partners/ESCAP/ditctncd2020d4_en.pdf)
- **How COVID-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective Volume III**, The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), March 2021. (https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/ccsa_publication_vol3_e.pdf)

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