

Introduction to the Development Account Project

Enhancing the contribution of PTAs to
inclusive and equitable trade:

Bangladesh

28-29 March 2017



The Development Account

- Established by the General Assembly in 1997 through resolution 52/12 B
- The Development Account is a mechanism to fund capacity development projects of the economic and social entities of the United Nations
- The Development Account has programmed **335 projects for a total budget of \$209.7 million**

The Ninth tranche

- The theme of each tranche is the result of internationally agreed development goals and outcomes of major conferences and summits
- The theme of the Ninth tranche of the Development Account is to **support Member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies towards sustainable, equitable and inclusive development**

NINTH TRANCHE OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT

**ENHANCING THE CONTRIBUTION OF
PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS
TO INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE TRADE**

Motivations for the project

- Expanding trade and investment has driven growth in many developing countries, reducing poverty and increasing welfare
- However, not all countries – and groups within countries – have been able to benefit from trade
- Preferential trade agreements (PTAs) have the potential to promote growth, employment, and social welfare

Project Goals

- The project provides training and reference materials for governments to enhance their understanding of trade and PTAs
- The goal is to help governments understand how PTAs can be used to foster economic and social development

Pilot countries

- The project is led by ESCAP in collaboration with ECA and ECLAC

Asia-Pacific countries

- Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Myanmar, Viet Nam

African countries

- Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritius, Senegal

Latin America and Caribbean countries

- Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica

Outcomes

- Country studies on the social and economic impacts of preferential trade agreements
- Collected regional best-practices to be disseminated at the regional dialogue
- An online knowledge platform sharing training materials and country studies
- A dataset and indicators for tracking the performance of preferential trade agreements

Project Activities

- **National training workshops**
- Regional dialogue
- Global Meeting
- PTA Advisory Board
- Online knowledge platform

Objectives of the workshop

- 1) Increase the awareness of government officials and trade negotiators of the potential social and economic impacts of PTAs
- 2) Deepen officials' understanding of how to manage such impacts through ex-ante and ex-post adjustments

Workshop outline

- Trade policy: from efficiency to meeting social objectives
- PTAs and multilateral trading system and PTAs in Asia-Pacific
- Managing trade liberalization: trade adjustments and trade remedies
- Towards PTA's contribution to inclusive and equitable trade
- Getting a PTA done:
 - Stakeholders
 - Negotiation
 - Implementation and evaluation
- Trade reforms and PTAs of Bangladesh
 - Bangladesh experience so far

THANK YOU