

NTM Week 2018 - Shaping Sustainable Trade amid Protectionism

Side Event:

“Workshop on Reducing the Costs of NTMs in North and Central Asia”

11 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

DRAFT PROGRAMME

- 14:00 – 14:20 Welcoming remarks and overview [facilitated by ESCAP]
- 14:20 – 15:45 Session 1 – Country experiences in North and Central Asia
- This session will include 10-minute briefings by participating countries on their countries' experience dealing with trade barriers arising from NTMs (both their own and those of trade partners) and national initiatives they may have taken in this area. The goal will be to identify best practices and remaining challenges that need to be tackled. Some of the topics addressed will include:*
- a. How government agencies ensure transparency of the NTMs?*
 - b. What are the processes of cost-benefit analysis of establishing NTMs?*
 - c. How are the governments trying to reduce NTM-related burden for traders?*
 - d. Infrastructure needs for SPS/TBT compliance;*
 - e. Efforts of harmonization;*
 - f. Regulatory and procedural barriers.*
- 15:45 – 16:00 Break
- 16:00 – 17:00 Session 2 – Way forward on Reducing the Costs of NTMs [facilitated by UNCTAD, tbc]
- This session will discuss the results of recent ongoing research, capacity building, and harmonization/mutual recognition initiatives on reducing the costs of NTMs and related procedural barriers in North and Central Asia.*
- a. ITC – private sector perspective on NTMs and procedural barriers*
 - b. UNECE – Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in North and Central Asia [tbc]*
 - c. EAEU – benefits of and progress towards a harmonized NTM regime [tbc]*
 - d. Others*
- 17:00 – 17:30 Conclusion and recommendations