

## Trade and Investment week 2019

### Side-event:

### Follow-up Workshop on Reducing the Costs of Non-tariff Measures in North and Central Asia

15 March 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The purpose of this workshop is to review progress on addressing non-tariff measures in Central Asia and explore options for subregional cooperation on reducing the costs and enhancing transparency of NTMs. The workshop will summarize the outcomes of the first meeting, held on 11 October 2018 in Geneva, update the countries on the ongoing data collection work and provide an opportunity for countries to discuss avenues in promoting intra-regional cooperation on reducing the costs of NTMs.

#### **Friday, 15 March 2018**

Venue: UNCC, CR-3

09:00 – 09:15 Welcoming remarks and introductions

09:15 – 10:15 Session 1 – Overview of the state of NTMs in North and Central Asia.

*This session will start with an overview of the outcome of the first workshop, held on 11 October 2018 in Geneva. Next findings from ESCAP/ITC report on “Non-tariff measures in Asia-Pacific: A private sector perspective” focusing on North and Central Asia will be presented. This session will also provide an update on ongoing NTM data collection in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.*

10:15 – 10:30 *Break*

10:30 – 12:00 Session 2 – Country experiences in North and Central Asia

*This session, moderated by ESCAP, will be an open floor discussion among the participants from North and Central Asia countries on the subject of reducing the costs of NTMs in Central Asia. Topics to be discussed during session will include:*

- a. *How high are NTMs and NTM harmonization on the priority list of trade ministries?*
- b. *What difficulties do government agencies face in promoting intra-regional cooperation on NTMs?*
- c. *How are trade agreements used (or can be used) to address NTM regulatory coherence?*
- d. *What role do you for ESCAP in promoting intra-regional cooperation on NTMs?*