

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CAPACITY BUILDING

ADVISORY SERVICES

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE



Our Approach

In addition to providing analytical inputs to strengthen the effectiveness of trade policies, ESCAP is engaged in building the capacity and skills of those involved in trade policymaking, trade negotiations and implementation of trade policy changes. This work places the principles of inclusivity and sustainability at the center of trade policy formulation and is intended to improve the prospects of developing countries using trade as an instrument to reduce poverty. In all cases, the focus is particularly on securing benefits for least developed, landlocked and other countries with special needs.

We provide policy insights on how to realize the available opportunities for trade and investment. Our programme provides expert advice, technical assistance and capacity building for policymakers, negotiators and other relevant officials of member States. We work in partnership with many international and regional organizations to provide comprehensive assistance, whenever possible as part of integrated approaches.

Three important features define our capacity development work:

DEMAND DRIVEN

Our actions are planned in response to requests from our members and aligned to identified needs.

INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED

Recognizing that no countries face exactly the same challenges, or face the same set of institutional, regulatory, economic and social circumstances, we tailor our advice, training and assistance to the unique needs of each country.

BROADLY BASED

ESCAP's areas of assistance cover the full range of trade and investment policies and trade negotiations.





Areas of Work

ESCAP trade policy advice and capacity building covers varied topics including liberalization at the multilateral, bilateral and plurilateral levels. Our focus is on issues of particular relevance for developing economies including:

Preparation and coordination of trade policy reforms

We prepare countries for trade negotiations; assist with policy implementation; and evaluate impacts. Workstreams cover all major trade policy instruments such as tariffs, non-tariff measures, subsidies, countervailing measures, and anti-dumping practices.

Issues relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO)

We help countries understand and benefit from the multilateral trading system. Major issues addressed include: agriculture, industrial goods, services, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, as well as 'WTO-plus' issues.

Preferential access for developing countries

We inform members on how to make the most of the opportunities provided by preferential treatment for developing countries, reciprocal as well as non-reciprocal, and we build their capacity and capability to use such preferences to the maximum benefit for all.

Competitiveness and integration into regional and global supply chains

To enhance opportunities for intra-regional trade and regional integration, we assist with the identification of measures to enhance export competitiveness.

Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights are an important part of the trade landscape. We assist countries understand international obligations in relation to IPRs and develop domestic regulatory and policy approaches that secure the benefits from IPRs and innovation.

Outputs

Guides and Information

Handbooks and reference materials

Our practical guides are used by government officials and negotiators to prepare for and conduct trade policy reforms and trade negotiations. Researchers and analysts also benefit from our guides.

Up-to-date tracking of preferential trade agreements

The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database (APTIAD) covers over 200 reciprocal agreements signed by the member States of ESCAP.

Capacity Building and Training

Development of techniques and policy tools

Our training gives policymakers the economic and statistical tools they need to analyse the impact of trade policy reforms and negotiated reciprocal trade deals.

Capacity building programme

Run with the WTO secretariat and other partners since 1999, our programme has provided training to hundreds of officials and negotiators from ESCAP member States and is recognized as a model partnership among international organizations.

Policy Advice and Technical Assistance

Providing technical assistance

We help countries to formulate trade rules in view of the bilateral, regional or multilateral obligations and support the development of appropriate policy options to utilize trade for development.

Building national capabilities

We assist countries to develop in-country trade policy expertise by strengthening local institutions through activities such as the training of trainers programme on multilateral and preferential agreements.

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If you would like to learn more about ESCAP's work programme on trade policy, please get in touch with us using the contact details provided.

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