

UNDP/ESCAP/ArtNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation & Regional Integration

WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation Overview and State-of-Play

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Overview and State-of-Play

○ **Basic framework**

➤ **Mandate**

- Annex D of the July package with additional guidance from the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (Annex E)

➤ **Work Plan**

- Member-driven, covering all elements of the mandate in a flexible way with no judgements on priority

➤ **Positioning with the DDA**

- Part of the Single Undertaking

Overview and State-of-Play

○ Principles of operation

- Member-driven
- Bottom-up
- Transparent
- Inclusive

Overview and State-of-Play

○ **Progress made**

- **Substantive number of proposals**
- **Advanced understanding of the issues at stake**
- **Unique spirit of constructive cooperation and partnership**
- **Progress towards areas of common ground**

Overview and State-of-Play

○ **Proposals tabled**

- From initial 1st generation proposals...
- ... over refined, consolidated 2nd generation ones to....
- text-based 3rd generation input

Overview and State-of-Play

Main areas covered

- Improvements and clarifications of GATT Articles V, VIII and X
- Cooperation between customs and other authorities on TF & customs compliance
- Special and Differential Treatment
- Technical Assistance & Capacity Building
- Development-related matters
- Other (Needs assessment, cooperation, costs etc.)

Overview and State-of-Play

★ Sponsorship

- Members of all levels of development (developed, developing, LDCs)
- Co-sponsoring (rule rather than exception)
- Diverse partnerships (most proposals jointly sponsored by developed and developing countries; even LDCs)

Overview and State-of-Play

○ **Overarching objectives**

- **Simplification**
- **Reduction of requirements**
- **Harmonization**
- **Streamlining of procedures**
- **Non-discrimination**
- **Enhanced coordination & cooperation**
- **Enhancement of transparency and predictability**

Overview and State-of-Play

Main areas targeted within the GATT Art.

- Publication and availability of information
- Consultation and commenting mechanisms
- Advance rulings
- Other m. to enhance impartiality/non-disc./transp.
- Advance rulings
- Fees and charges connected with import/export
- Formalities connected with import/exportation
- Consularization
- Border agency cooperation
- Release and clearance of goods
- Matters relating to goods transit
- Other

Overview and State-of-Play

- **Text proposals on technical assist. + S&D**
 - **2 main contributions**
 - **TN/TF/W/137** by Armenia, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, EC, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Uruguay
 - **TN/TF/W/142** by the Core Group (Bangladesh, Botswana, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe)

Overview and State-of-Play

- **More details**

- **TN/TF/W/43.Rev.10**

Overview and State-of-Play

- **Latest developments**

- **Despite steady progress....**

- **...caught by cross-cutting suspension decision**

Overview and State-of-Play

○ Road ahead

- Review of situation in various settings
- Efforts to get back on track
- Future developments depending on Members' decisions