



14th UN/CEFACT Forum

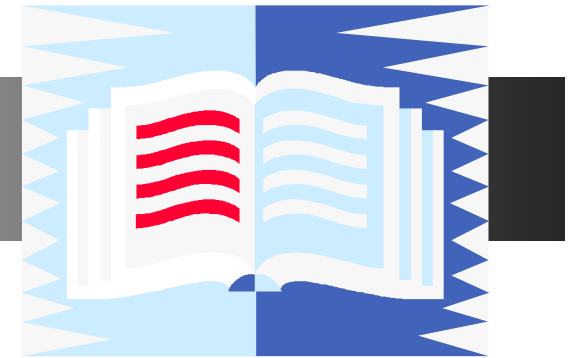
**The Role of Trade Facilitation: Promoting
Market Integration with a Focus on Africa**

**The State of the WTO negotiations on Trade
Facilitation & related capacity-building activities**

Rome, 22 April 09

Nora Neufeld, WTO

Overview



- 1 **State of the negotiations**
- 2 **Likely outcome**
- 3 **Capacity-building activities**
- 4 **Impact on market integration**
- 5 **Requirements for success**



Part 1

① State of the WTO Negotiations



1. State of the Negotiations

❖ **Good news ...**

- **Steady progress**
- **Parameters for TF Agreement are taking clear shape**
- **Good idea of likely content**
- **Positive environment despite challenging overall environment**



Part 2

2 Likely outcome



2. Likely outcome

- ❖ **A WTO Agreement on TF will ...**
 - **increase trading opportunities**
 - **significantly reduce transaction costs**
 - **speed up border crossing procedures**
 - **Create a more transparent, predictable and efficient environment that reduces discrimination**



2. Likely outcome

❖ What's on the table?

➤ **Framework for eliminating many NTBs**

- ✓ **Improved regulatory framework**
- ✓ **Due process rights and sustainability of reforms**
- ✓ **Reduction/elimination of multiple - and sometimes contradictory - recommendations that have no teeth and no guarantee of being enforced**
- ✓ **Enhanced competitiveness and better integration into the global economy**



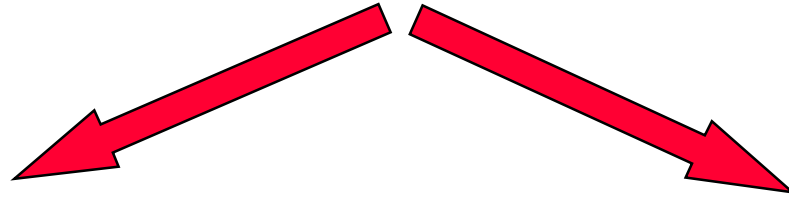
Part 3

3 Related capacity building activities



3. Capacity building activities

❖ Capacity building



During the negotiations After their conclusion

- **by governments & other international organizations**
- **by the WTO**
- **other**



3. Capacity building activities

❖ **Capacity building**

➤ **by the WTO (example)**

✓ **Program to assess trade facilitation needs and priorities**

- **Objective**
- **Parameters**
- **State-of-play**



Part 4

4 Potential impact on market integration



4. Impact on market integration

❖ **Positive effects through ...**

- ✓ **Greater harmonization, less cumbersome rules**
- ✓ **Enhanced efficiency, better use of scarce resources**
- ✓ **Increased transparency and predictability, less room for corruption**
- ✓ **Protection against arbitrary discontinuation of reforms; common direction of TF efforts**
- ✓ **Less discrimination**



4. Impact on market integration

❖ Particular relevance for Africa

- ✓ Existing gaps**
- ✓ Significant reform potential**
- ✓ Geographic situation**
- ✓ Special benefits of the WTO talks**



Part 5

5 What needs to be done?



5. What needs to be done?

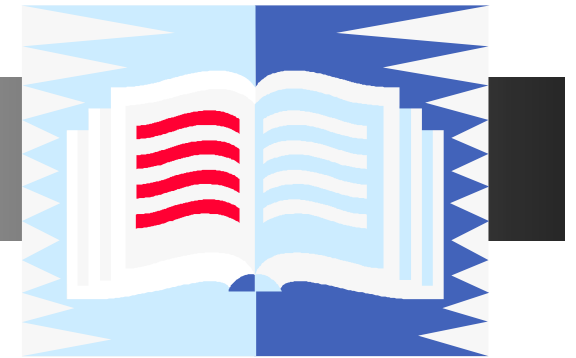
❖ Requirements to reap the full potential

- Enhanced engagement**
- Serious commitment**
- Readiness to compromise**
- Cooperation & coordination**

❖ Role of the private sector



Summary



- ① **Progress made**
- ② **Promising outcome**
- ③ **Useful capacity-building activities**
- ④ **Positive potential for market integration in Africa**
- ⑤ **Need for committed, flexible, joint approach**
- ⑥ **Important role for the private sector**

