



18.03.2021

HÔTEL RADISSON BLUE, NIAMEY, NIGER

VALIDATION WORKSHOP RELATED TO ITC BUSINESS SURVEY ON TRADE BARRIERS IN NIGER

As part of the ITC project on obstacles to trade in goods and services in Niger, the Ministry of Trade and the Promotion of the Private Sector, the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy and the International Trade Center (ITC) jointly organize a workshop to **define actions to reduce trade costs induced by trade regulations**, based on the results of the survey on trade barriers in Niger.

Organized within the framework of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, this meeting will bring together high-level official representatives of the Ministry of Trade and the Promotion of the Private Sector, the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and the Digital Economy, Finance, the main business incubators in Niger, local organizations or associations involved in the Information and Communication Technologies sector, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations. The meeting will establish **recommendations for overcoming trade barriers** faced by ICT service providers in Niger.

Discussions will be based on the results of the 2019 exporter and importer Survey on Regulatory and Procedural Trade Barriers. This survey documented the experiences of **580 companies**, 71 of which were in the ICT sector among others, mainly micro, small and medium enterprises.

The morning sessions will focus on the results of the business survey in the ICT sector. In the afternoon, thematic sessions will refine and complete the **set of recommendations** emanating from bilateral consultations with public and private sector actors as well as sector experts. These sessions will also be an opportunity to validate the **roadmap of priority actions** to improve the business climate in Niger for the ICT sector.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, ITC external speakers will be present by videoconference.

08:30 Reception and registration of participants

The barrier measures recommended by the Government of Niger will be applied for the benefit of all.

09:15 Opening Ceremony

Speech to launch the Workshop and presentation of the course of the day

Mr. Mimouni Mondher, Head of Trade and Market Intelligence Section, ITC

S.E.M. Laouali Labo, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Niger to UNOG, UNOV and WTO

Mr. Mohamed Boucha, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy

09:45 Coffee break

10:00 Presentation of survey results in Niger, trade in ICT services

ITC will present the survey project, its purpose and implementation, as well as the results, including on the main barriers to regulatory action affecting ICT service providers.

Mr. Vianney Lesaffre, Market Analyst, ITC



- 10:45** **Presentation of the results of the survey conducted at ECOWAS level and good practices in the ICT sector**
ITC will present the main findings of the ECOWAS-level survey on trade barriers, as well as good practices in the ICT sector.
Mr. Martin Labbe, Expert in setting up ICT incubators in West Africa, ITC
- 11:10** **Presentation of the obstacles related to the provision of ICT services**
ITC will outline the main measures / obstacles that pose a challenge for ICT companies in their export and import procedures.
Mr. Boubacar Issa, Focal point in Niger for the AfCFTA
- 11:30** **Thematic round table 1 'Obstacles to trade in ICT services related to Niger's regulations'**
Participants are invited to share their views and refine recommendations emerging from bilateral consultations with public and private sector actors as well as sectoral experts. The discussion group will also be asked to validate the roadmap of priority actions. This first roundtable focuses on the obstacles related to Nigerien regulations, which are attached in the accompanying document to the workshop discussion.
- 13 :00** **Lunch break**
- 14 :30** **Continuation of the roundtables ' Obstacles to trade in ICT services related to partner country regulations'**
This second roundtable focuses on the barriers linked to regulations in partner countries, which are attached in the accompanying document to the discussion of the workshop.
- 16:30** **Coffee break**
- 17:00** **Definition of the roadmap**
If necessary, the participants will discuss other recommendations and validate the roadmap of priority actions to be undertaken to overcome obstacles to trade in Niger.
- 17:30** **Conclusion of roundtables and concluding remarks**
Ms. Ursula Hermelink, Head of the Non-Tariff Measures Project, ITC
Mr. Raouf Issaka, Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and Promotion of the Private Sector
Mr. Maman Lawan Nafiou, Director of Information Technology, MPTEN
- 18:00** **End of the workshop**

Contacts à l'ITC

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