



AGENDA

FACILITATING TRADE INTEGRATION IN ECOWAS

HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
14-15 June 2016

Organized jointly by the
African Development Bank (AfDB) and the
International Trade Centre (ITC)

FACILITATING TRADE INTEGRATION IN ECOWAS

TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016, 8.30–17.30

Master of Ceremony: Martin Koye, *Chargé de Mission et de Communication du Ministre du Commerce, Côte d'Ivoire*

08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening Ceremony

- Stefan Nalletamby, *Acting Vice-President Infrastructure, Private Sector & Regional Integration, African Development Bank (AfDB)*
- Aichatou Pouye, *Director, Division of Business and Institutional Support, International Trade Centre (ITC)*
- H. E. Mr. Jean-Louis Billon, *Minister of Commerce, Côte d'Ivoire*

09:40 Official Photo

09:45 Item 1: Presentation of the main findings and regional insights from the NTM Surveys in ECOWAS countries

ITC will present the main results of surveys conducted in the region. The presentation will focus on the impact of NTMs on intra-regional trade and the types of obstacles faced by the private sector. Each item will be followed by questions and answers

Moderator: Aissatou Diallo, *ITC Country/Regional portfolio Manager for West Africa*

Speaker: Ursula Hermelink, *NTM programme manager, ITC*

- 1.1 Background and general results
- 1.2 Key NTM-related trade obstacles within ECOWAS
 - a. Quality and conformity assessment

10:30 Break

10:45 1.2 Key NTM-related trade obstacles within ECOWAS (continued)

- b. Rules of origin, trade information and implementation of existing trade agreements
- c. Customs procedures and trade facilitation at the border

Open discussion

12:15 Break/Lunch

13:30 Item 2: Thematic roundtables to discuss and define recommendations to address regulatory and procedural trade obstacles

Participants will be invited to take part in one of the proposed roundtables to share their views and experiences on identified obstacles. Each roundtable will prepare a set of recommendations and priorities to address the identified barriers. The reporter of each roundtable will be appointed by the participants at the beginning of session.

- Roundtable 1: Quality requirements and management: standards, harmonization, mutual recognition and conformity assessment procedures
Facilitator: Shiaka Kawa, *Director of Export Development, Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA)*
Rapporteur: to be designated by the participants

- Roundtable 2: NTMs and regional integration: rules of origin, trade information and implementation of existing trade agreements
Facilitator: Stéphane Aka-Anghui, *Deputy Cabinet Director*, Ministry of African Integration
Rapporteur: to be designated by the participants
- Roundtable 3: Customs procedures and trade facilitation at the border
Facilitator: Marc Loba, *Economist*, Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire in Geneva
Rapporteur: to be designated by the participants

16:30 **Break**

16:45 **Item 3: Summary of round table discussions by the rapporteurs of each round table**
Each presentation will be followed by a brief intervention of international partners

Moderator: Aissatou Diallo, *ITC Country/Regional portfolio Manager for West Africa*

17:30 **Closing of official programme of day 1**

19:30 **Dinner, Hôtel Tiama**

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2016, 9.00–12.30

The second day's aim is to present recommendations from roundtables and establish a roadmap for their implementation. This session will be chaired by representatives of ECOWAS and WAEMU.

09:00 **Item 4: Presentation of key recommendations and development of an action plan**
The roundtable rapporteurs will provide details on the findings and recommendations that emerged during the discussions. Each presentation will be followed by an open discussion to validate the priority actions and a roadmap towards their implementation.

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **Item 5: Validation of an action plan to reduce NTM-related trade cost to boost intra-regional trade**

12:00 **Closing**

- H. E. Mr. Jean-Louis Billon, Minister of Commerce, Côte d'Ivoire (*to be confirmed*)
- Representative of ECOWAS
- Aboubakar Sidiki Cissé, WAEMU
- Aichatou Pouye, ITC

