30.06.2020  
HOTEL RADISSON BLUE, NIAMEY, NIGER

VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON THE SURVEY ‘INVISIBLE BARRIERS TO TRADE IN NIGER’

As part of the ITC project on Non-Tariff Measures in Niger, the Ministry of Trade and Promotion of the Private Sector and the International Trade Centre teamed up to organize a workshop to define actions for reducing unnecessary trade cost based on the results of the business survey on trade obstacles in Niger.

Organized within the framework of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, this meeting will bring together high-level official representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Promotion of the Private Sector, the Ministries of Industry, Transport, Tourism, Finance, Customs administration and standardization bodies in Niger as well as representatives of regional and international organizations. The meeting will allow establishing recommendations to overcome trade impediments that businesses in Niger are encountering.

Discussions will be based on the results of the 2019 survey of exporters and importers on regulatory and procedural trade obstacles. This survey documented the experiences of 580 companies, mostly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, in agriculture, manufacturing as well as three services sectors, namely: transport and logistics, tourism, and information and communication technologies.

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

Because of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, external speakers will be present via videoconference.

08:30 Welcome and registration of participants
The protective measures recommended by the Government of Niger will be applied for the comfort of all participants.

09:00 Opening ceremony
Launching remarks of the Workshop and presentation of the day
Mr. Raouf Issaka, Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and Promotion of the Private Sector
Ms. Ursula Hermelink, Head of the Non-Tariffs Measures Programme, ITC

09:30 Background and overview of the survey results for Goods and Services
ITC will outline the survey project, its objective and implementation, as well as the results focusing on the main obstacles related to NTMs, affecting Nigerien exports and imports.
M. Vianney Lesaffre, Analyste de Marchés, ITC

10:10 Discussions

10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Presentation of the key trade obstacles for Niger
ITC will outline the main measures / obstacles which represent a challenge for companies in their export and import activities.
M. Boubacar Issa, Niger Focal Point for the AfCFTA

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Thematic round table 1: ‘Trade barriers related to Niger’s regulations’
Participants are invited to share their views on and refine the recommendations emanating from bilateral consultations with actors from the public and private sector as well as sector experts. The discussion group will also be asked to validate the roadmap of the priority actions to improve the business climate in Niger.
This first round table is about obstacles linked to regulations from Niger, that can be consulted in the document supporting the discussion of the workshop.

14:30 Thematic round table 2: ‘Trade barriers related to the regulations posed by the countries in the region’
This second round table is about obstacles linked to regulations from the country of the ECOWAS region, that can be consulted in the document supporting the discussion of the workshop.

15:40 Coffee break

16:00 Other subjects and definition of the roadmap
If applies, participants will discuss other recommendations and validate the roadmap of priority actions to take to tackle obstacles to trade in Niger.

16:30 Concluding remarks and closing
Mr. Raouf Issaka, Director of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and Promotion of the Private Sector
Ms. Ursula Hermelink, Head of the Non-Tariffs Measures Programme, ITC

17:00 End of the workshop

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