



Parallel event

23 October 2025
Room Concordia 1
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.



CONCEPT NOTE

Trade-related regulations for economic integration and sustainable development

Description

Since 2012, UNCTAD has led global efforts in collecting, classifying and analysing trade-related regulations, particularly non-tariff measures. Its comprehensive non-tariff measures database covers 150 countries and reflects evolving regulatory policies. In addition, UNCTAD research shows that non-tariff measures are three times more costly than tariffs, yet they are important for health, security and the environment.

Discussions at this event will explore how data-driven policymaking can enhance trade, support economic integration and strengthen supply chains for sustainable development; and address how transparent and harmonized non-tariff measures can align public policy objectives with private sector needs, facilitate international trade and contribute to sustainable development, taking into account, in particular, recent global challenges. Updated non-tariff measures data for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea will be launched, collected with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia. In addition, the non-tariff measures cost-effectiveness toolkit developed by UNCTAD will be presented.

Programme

Opening remarks: Luz María de la Mora, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities

High-level panel and interactive discussion

Questions

- How relevant are non-tariff measures to global trade and to regional economic integration?
- How important is transparency and market intelligence for companies, particularly when exporting to new markets? How can transparency be improved?
- With several countries adopting unilateral measures, causing uncertainty in global trade, how can countries return to the negotiation table? Does the World Trade Organization framework provide sufficient regulatory flexibility?
- How can the UNCTAD non-tariff measures cost-effectiveness toolkit be leveraged for regional integration and better market access beyond ASEAN?

Moderator: Ralf Peters, Head, Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities

Language

English

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