

Working Party on the Programme Plan and  
Programme Performance

Eighty-eighth session

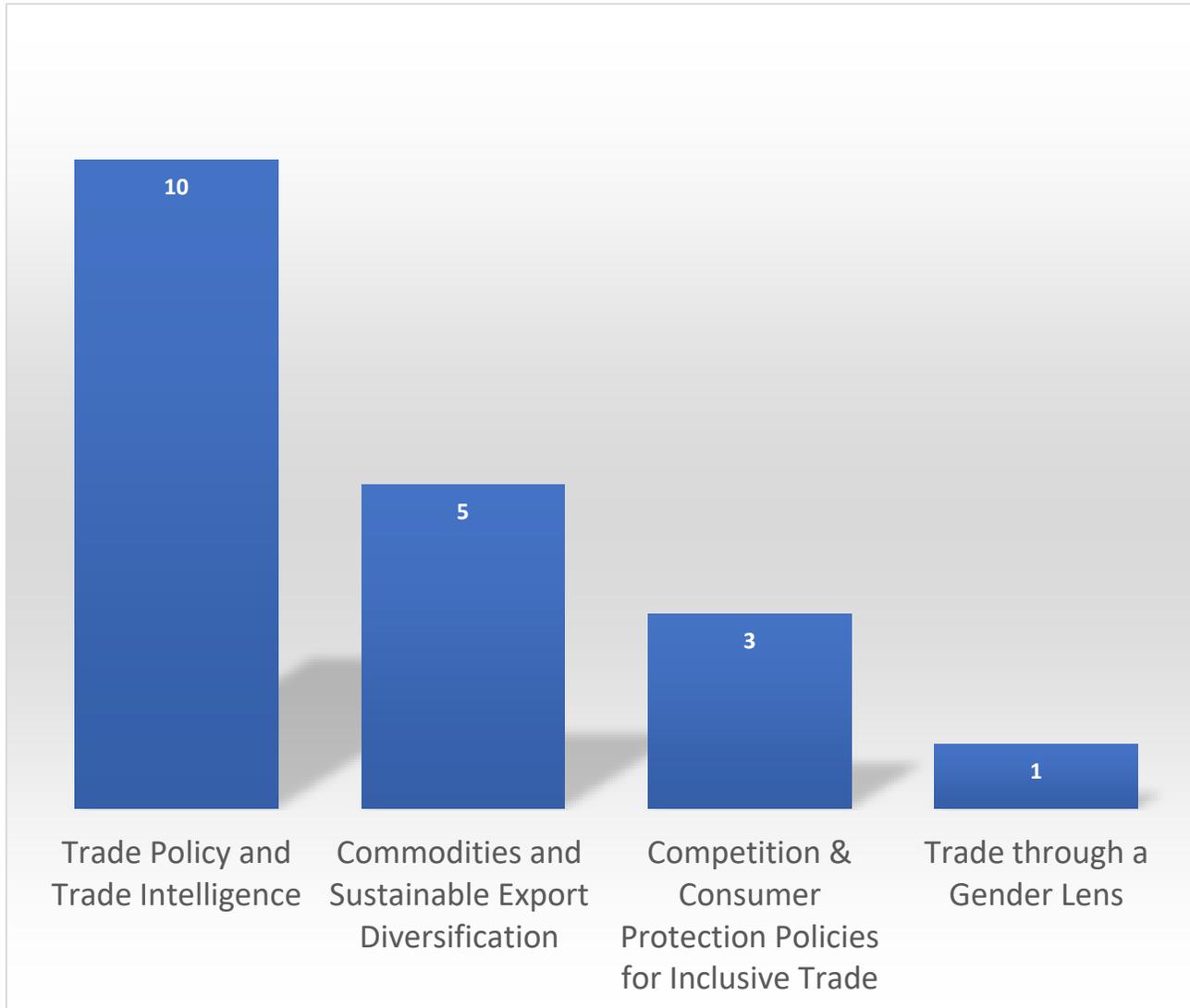
# Technical Cooperation activities of the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC)

7 October 2024

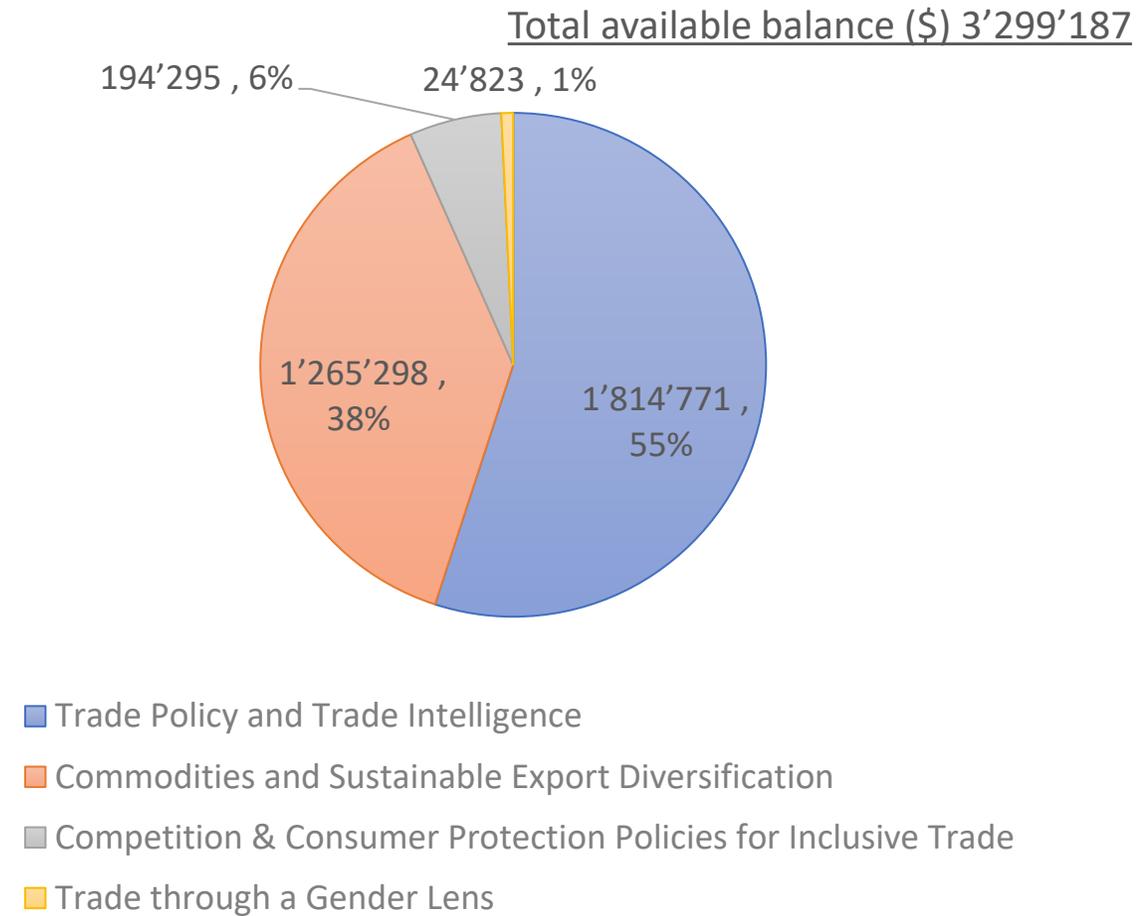
Luz María de la Mora  
Director, DITC

# Technical Cooperation by the Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC)

## 19 ongoing TC Activities by DITC (as of 31 August 2024)



- Demand driven & implemented in close cooperation with beneficiary countries
- Seeking long-term impacts in capacity building
- Build on synergies between 3 pillars.



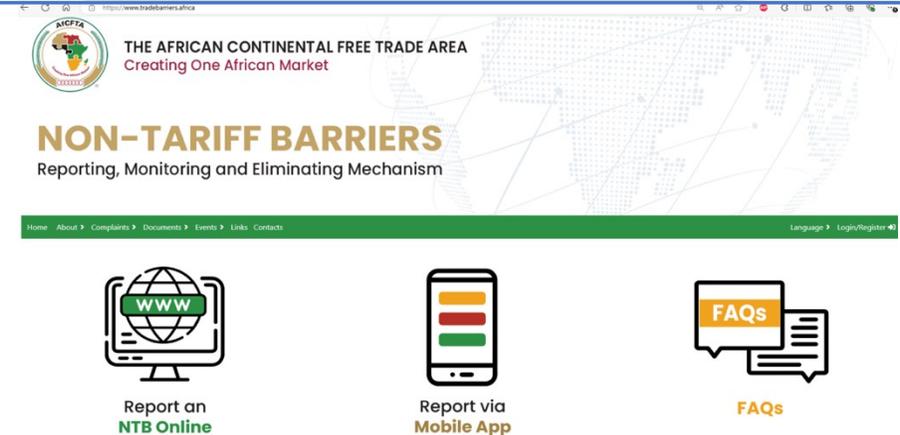
# 1. Trade Policy & Trade Intelligence

## Increasing transparency and supporting regional trade agreement implementation

Non-tariff measures (NTM) transparency: data available for 147 countries on the [TRAINOnline](#) database

### Breaking down trade barriers in Africa

- [AfCFTA Non-Tariff Barriers Online Mechanism](#) helps resolve obstacles reported by traders.
- Increased regulatory transparency through data collection in more than 30 African countries.
- Forthcoming report finds benefits of US\$ 7.1 billion when addressing non-tariff measures in the AfCFTA



### CEFTA. Dispute settlement (DSM) and reducing trade costs

- ✓ Enhance regional integration and bring parties closer to EU market
- ✓ Resolve and prevent trade disputes, and reduce trade costs
- ✓ Monitor claims and resolution.

## Trade policy & institutional building: The case of Iraq as a post conflict nation

- Provides capacity building and develop expertise of trade officials involved in WTO accession
- Strategic policy measures initiated to reform trade policy framework
- **Enabled Iraq to resume WTO accession negotiations in July 2024 after 16-year hiatus**



# 1. Trade Policy & Trade Intelligence

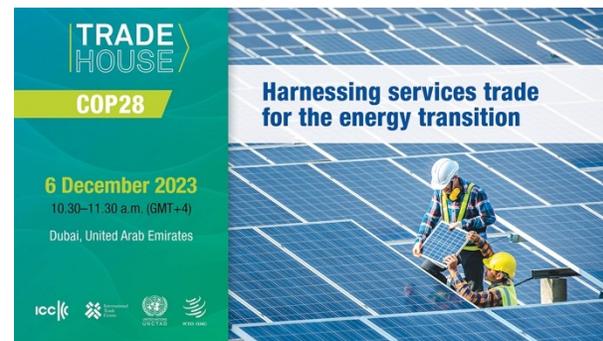
## Trade in Services and Development

Strengthen capacity for evidence-based policymaking and economic resilience of CARICOM (2023-2027):

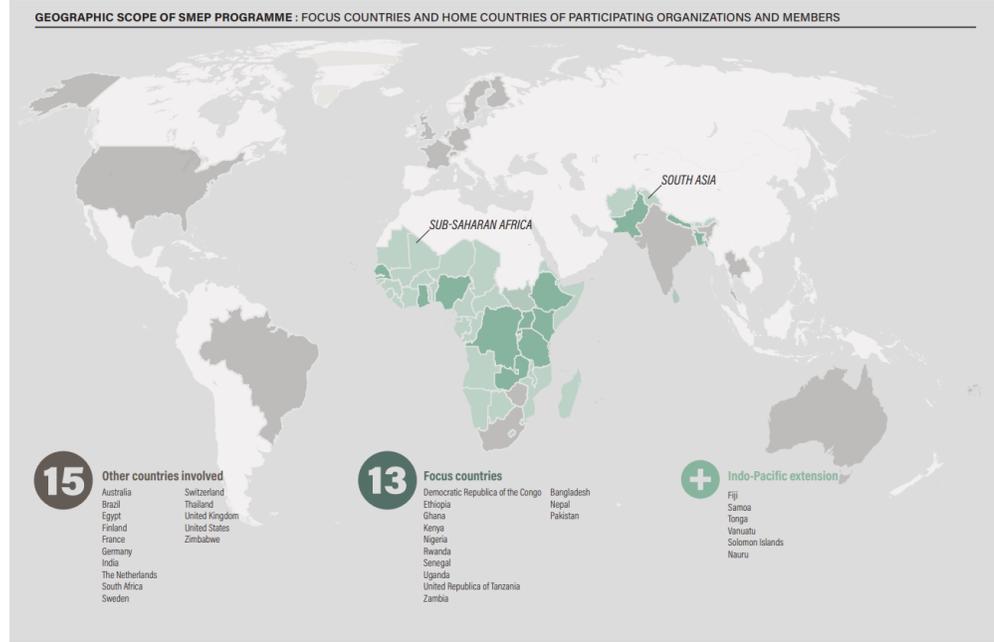
- Strengthens services trade capacity in 7 Caribbean countries
- Improves evidence-based policymaking in trade in services and economic resilience
- Benefits from UNCTAD work on Informal Working Group on Data for Services

## Creative economy

- Advisory Services provided to **Ethiopia** on Creative Economy for Development

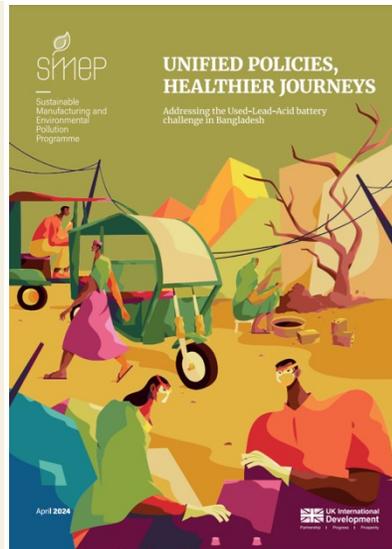
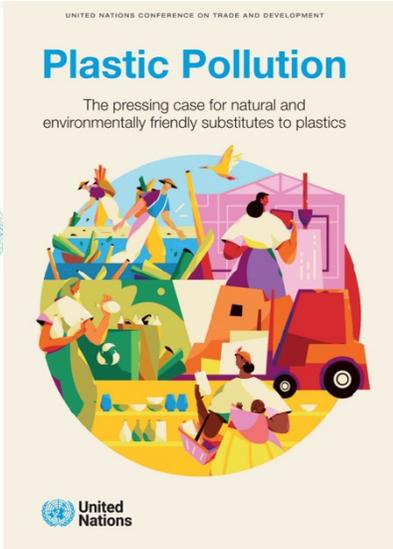
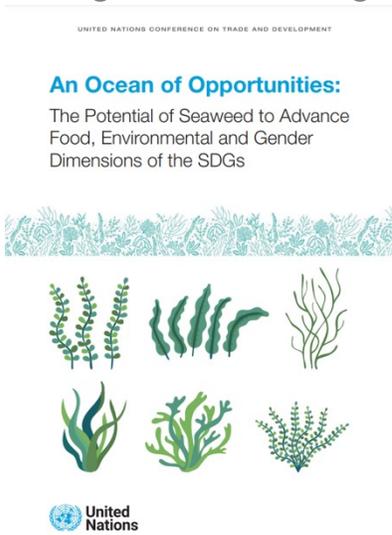


# 2. Commodities and Sustainable Export Diversification



## Sustainable Manufacturing and Oceans Economy

Sustainable market opportunities: Development of novel fibres, business models for better e-battery provision, development of biodegradable fishing nets.



**Supported +5000 stakeholders on plastics substitutes, tanneries, lead-acid battery recycling and organic waste upcycling in 2023-24**

**Portfolio of 23 projects in Africa, South Asia with +570 directly involved individuals by 2024**

**Direct support to government of Kenya & Fiji on plastic policy, control measures & non-plastic substitutes**

**Direct support for countries negotiating a "Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution at INC Process" (UNEA 5.2 Res) & WTO Dialogue on Plastic Pollution**

Studies on plastic substitutes, including marine-based materials such as seaweed; Studies on policy levers for better e-battery management, presented in workshop to government of Bangladesh.

UK-FCDO and Portugal were donors for Sustainable Manufacturing and Oceans Programmes.

## 2. Commodities and Sustainable Export Diversification

# Suape project: Strategic Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Global Competitiveness

*Helping commodity-dependent countries identify which products to diversify into.*



**Objective:** Identify sectors and products that align with Suape's existing production chains, increase diversification, add value, and boost exports, particularly of non-oil and gas-related products.



### Results: Uncovering Suape's Potential

- 141 products identified in six priority sectors, with product-level export opportunities and key destinations based on growing import markets.
- Tapping into these products could increase the region's GDP by **\$163 million** and direct and indirect employment by **19,000 jobs**.

**Way forward: Conduct this assessment in other countries, tailored to specific municipalities, cities, or at the national level.**



**Methodology:** Economic complexity with modifications by UNCTAD allowing the identification of products at the 6-digit level with their unit price range.

### Partners



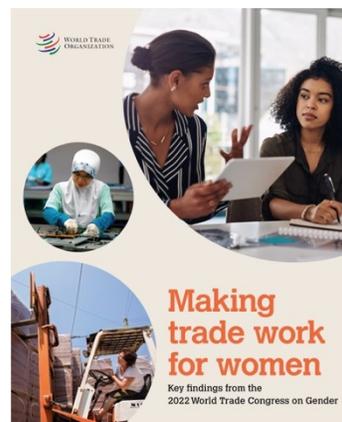
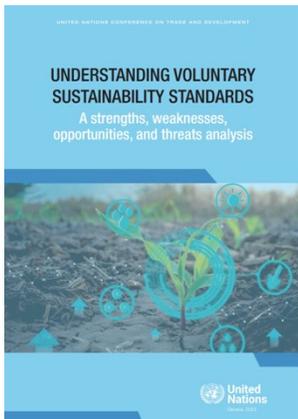
**Observatório**  
DA INDÚSTRIA



## 2. Commodities and Sustainable Export Diversification

### Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) for green trade in Pacific SIDS of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)

- 346 participants in workshops on VSS
- MSG secretariat and 4 member States validated subregional green trade action plan
- Papua New Guinea introduced new VSS for vanilla



# 3. Competition and Consumer protection policies for inclusive trade

## Building a competition culture and competition policy in LDCs + Bhutan

Establishing robust legal frameworks for competition, fostering fair market practices, enhancing consumer protection, and promoting economic growth.

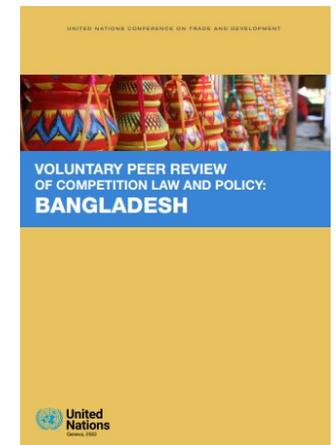
**Bangladesh:** Supported the implementation of Voluntary Peer Review recommendations on competition and trained new officials.

**Bhutan:** Webinars on competition law for new authority.

**DRC:** Assessed regulations, provided recommendations, and presented capacity-building programme.

**Mozambique:** Supported drafting of first competition leniency programme.

**Timor-Leste:** Assisted in drafting first competition law framework for WTO accession (2024).



### 3. Competition and Consumer protection policies for inclusive trade

#### Promoting sustainable consumption practices among consumers: Achieving SDG 12

- Sustainable consumption crucial for addressing global environmental crises
- UNCTAD co-leads Consumer Information Programme with UNEP
- Identified synergies between environmental agreements and consumer protection (Dec. 2024)
- Capacity building for Latin American consumers (Oct. 2024)
- Defining requirements for environmental impact information on products/services



# 4. Trade through a gender lens

Leveraging research findings to train stakeholders on new aspects of the trade and gender nexus

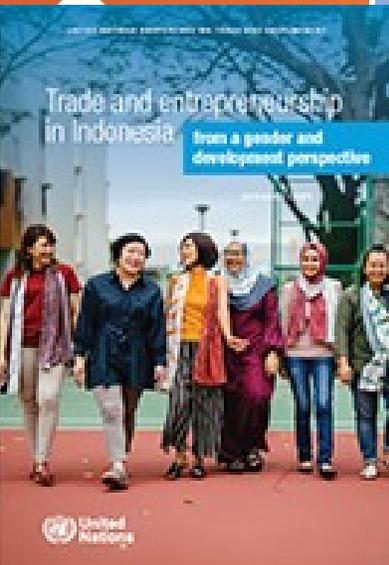


Study: *The impact of non-tariff measures on women's ecommerce businesses*

Online course: NTMs and gender (June – July 2024)

## Barriers related to NTMs for women-led businesses:

- Increased regulatory burden and low capacities due to smaller firm size
- Concentration in less profitable sectors like agriculture and textiles, where NTMs are more prevalent
- Higher customs clearance time due to gendered supply-side constraints



Study: *Trade, gender and entrepreneurship in Indonesia*

Online course on trade and gender in Indonesia (Nov – Dec 2023)

## Findings:

- High female entrepreneurship: more women than men owning businesses
- Participation in key sectors such as palm oil, apparel, tourism, creative economy
- Gender gaps persist – e.g. lower access to training, finance, markets; lower productivity/ profits
- Targeted support needed to boost progress

## Key figures

- **27 online courses** delivered during 2015-2024
- **2,300 stakeholders** trained
- **154 beneficiary countries**
- **89%** rated the course as **Excellent or Very good**

## Upcoming

- UN Development Account : ***Sustainable product export strategies and traceability for a green, sustainable, and inclusive economy in Asia***
  - *Build sustainable products export strategies, improve traceability (deforestation), promote gender inclusiveness. Coffee, cassava starch, tapioca, cinnamon.*
  - *Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam.*

## Under development – fundraising required

- Develop a primer on **data for services trade** and development policies
- Rapid Assessment of **Value Addition and Diversification Capacity in Critical Minerals**
- **Artificial Intelligence** for Strengthening Women Participation in Trade
- Competition and Consumer Policies to transform **digital markets** for development
- Requests received for assistance on Creative Economy (mapping potential+ capacity building)
- 43 pending TC requests



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD