

STDF WORKING GROUP MEETING

20-21 MARCH
WTO, GENEVA

Brief on the 2017 edition of the Trade Capacity-Building Resource Guide

Honorable Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to share a brief information on our current activities related to the 2017 edition of the Trade Capacity-Building Resource Guide.

Under the mandate by the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the UN System Chief Executives Board (CEB), UNIDO has been leading the efforts and coordination of framing trade capacity building services since 2008 when the first edition of the Resource Guide was published. The primary goal is to assist developing and least developed countries in building and strengthening trade-related capacities through mapping available trade aid services and activities of multilateral organizations and bilateral donors.

The preparatory activities of the upcoming Resource Guide were launched jointly by UNIDO and WTO at the beginning of this year. The 2017 edition will reflect the focus of the Sixth Global Review of Aid for Trade on “Promoting connectivity,” thus refining the new edition of the Resource Guide as an integral element of the Aid-for-Trade (AfT) Agenda. To gather the information, requests were sent to Geneva-based permanent missions of thirty-seven donors¹ and thirty-one directors of multilateral organizations². The 2017 edition will be accessible on an interactive website to ease its use and outreach (detailed information will be provided at a later stage).

Among others, one of the core objectives of this exercise is to support developing and least developed countries in defining quality infrastructure policies and strategies by providing information on existing programmes and services related to SPS-related capacity

¹ Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

² AfDB, ADB, CDB, EBRD, FAO, IDB, IAEA, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMO, IMF, ITU, ITC, UNCITRAL, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNRWA, WB, WHO, WIPO, UNWTO, and WTO.

building. The Resource Guide serves as a practical tool for decision-making to meet and implement SPS requirements through making better use of available capacity building channels. In particular, two covered areas, **legal and regulatory framework and compliance infrastructure and services** (not limited to), center on services and expertise that facilitate WTO agreements (including SPS agreement), standards, compliance, accreditation and certification, testing and calibration laboratories and inspection services.

The 2015 edition of the Resource Guide³ identified a broad range of SPS aid programmes, including assistance in policy formation, consumer awareness raising, training and education, development of technical tools in control, inspection, sampling, testing and certification procedures, support in the physical establishment of laboratories and upgrading equipment.

Currently, UNIDO is still in the process of collecting inputs from both bilateral and multilateral donors. We welcome the continuing contributions, which provide strong support to developing and least developing countries.

We do believe that this exercise will contribute to the improvement of SPS capacities and add to the efforts in supporting economic growth and poverty reduction.

Thank you for your attention.

³ The 2015 Trade Capacity Building Resource Guide is available at: <http://www.unido.org/tcbresourceguide2015.html>