Call for Applications

NEGOTIATING REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR TRADE IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND PANDEMIC

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Period of the training: 8th May - 16th June 2023
Application Deadline: 30th April 2023
NEGOTIATING REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS
FOR TRADE IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND PANDEMIC

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Announcement in Brief

**Course Type:** Online Course

**Programme Area:** Regional Integration

**Date:** 8th May – 16th June 2023

**Duration:** 6 Weeks

**Language:** Bilingual (French / English)

**Application Deadline:** 30th Avril 2023

**Website:** https://knowledge.uneca.org/idep

IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme
COVID-19 has brought significant disruption to international trade and has revealed countries’ reliance on ad-hoc unilateral actions in response to the crisis. Both trade restrictive and trade facilitating measures have been taken to combat the pandemic, but overall, their effectiveness has been undermined by lack of coordination. This has highlighted the gaps in the existing multilateral and regional trade agreements (RTAs) in terms of ensuring protection and resilience during a global or regional crisis.

In order to fill these gaps to ensure more resilient and predictable trade in times of future crisis, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in collaboration with UN regional commissions as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other partner organizations launched the global Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic in Regional and Other Trade Agreements (IMP).

The major outcome of the IMP is a newly published UN Handbook on Provisions and Options for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic. This Handbook provides a range of options for provisions that address key issues for trade in times of pandemic and other crisis and explains in detail those legal provisions.

Based on this Handbook, IDEP is co-organizing with ECA/ATPC and ESCAP a free online course on Negotiating RTAs for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic.

Objectives

The main objectives are to better understand the importance of adapting RTA provisions to cater for trade policy needs in times of crisis; strengthen the capacity in understanding, designing, and drafting RTA provisions; join the discussion on how RTA provisions may be crafted to better address possible future crises.

Content of the Handbook and the Course

The Handbook aims at providing options for provisions that could be used in future RTAs to provide guidance for more coordinated and effective responses to future crisis. The course will be structured based on the Handbook’s nine chapters:

- Chapter I addresses the COVID-19 Pandemic and Countries’ Responses.
- Chapter II addresses the treatment of essential goods and services.
- Chapter III addresses key issues of trade facilitation.
- Chapter IV discusses sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade (TBT).
- Chapter V talks about intellectual property rights (IPRs).
- Chapter VI addresses key issues in digital trade.
- Chapter VII is focused on transparency.
- Chapter VIII highlights development.
- Chapter IX provides possibilities of building forward better.
Skill To Be Imparted

At the end of the course, the following outcomes will be expected:

- Better skills to define and identify essential goods and services, as well as tailored provisions;
- Good understanding on how the handbook will provide strategies on how to pursue the balance between legitimate policy objectives and free trade by ensuring the proportionality and compatibility of SPS and TBT measures;
- Strengthened capacity to develop transparency provisions tailored to times of crisis;
- Better overview on how and to what extent issues are incorporated in existing RTAs with a reference to the UN SDGs.

Pedagogical Approach and Mode of Delivery

The course will be delivered for six weeks - from May 8th to June 16th, 2023- including one week for the final evaluation.

- Lessons will be delivered in English and French and moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in the weekly on-line discussions.
- Learners can self-assess their understanding through practical exercises which will be in the form of quizzes / Multiple Choice Questions that will support active learning.
- Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.
- The pedagogical team will include a pool of experts in the subject matter, a team of moderators and Resource persons with first-hand knowledge on Trade Agreements issues and challenges. They also come with case studies to expose participants to webinars on focused topics to enhance a better interaction among participants. In line with the IDEP pedagogical philosophy, the presentation of the course modules will combine a knowledge-building component with experience-sharing among participants.
The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Target Audience

We are calling for interested participants who work or study in the field of international trade or participants as: senior officials, including government officials, Regional Economic Commissions' officials, policymakers, private sector representatives, researchers, academicians, national and regional cross-border trade associations as well as their members. Trade negotiators, customs officials, statistics authorities, development economists and practitioners, Academia with interest in Trade Agreement issues and challenges are highly encouraged to follow the training.

Acceptance to the course

Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform. The deadline for applications and nominations is April 30th, 2023. Until that date, participants will be accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the previous paragraph to see priority target group. [https://idep-applications.uneca.org/](https://idep-applications.uneca.org/)

Technical Requirements

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course. Please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
  - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
  - Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

Important Dates

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: 30th April 2023
- Course Period: 8th May – 16th June 2023

Contact Information

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N.B : IDEP strongly encourages and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme.