



TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEWS

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF TRADE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL CONTEXT

International trade is an engine for economic growth that can contribute to promoting sustainable development. It can be a powerful force for creating jobs, fostering efficient use of resources, stimulating entrepreneurship and ultimately lifting people out of poverty. Many developing countries have limited capacity to analyse the relationship between trade, productive capacity and employment; assess policy options; and (re)formulate and implement adequate national trade policy frameworks. Promoting a coherent and integrated approach to national trade policy formulation and implementation becomes a major challenge for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as they reformulate national trade policy frameworks to better draw development benefits from trade and respond to the imperatives of the Sustainable Development Goals, including in progressing towards the achievement of target 17.11 (increasing the exports of developing countries), Goal 8 (economic growth) and Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

The UNCTAD trade policy framework reviews help countries assess their trade policy regimes in a systematic, comprehensive and strategic manner, to identify possible areas for improvement. The reviews focus on identifying key sectors for diversification with the potential to bring higher economic value, setting the right trade policies to back up those development priorities and establishing a trade policy framework to ensure effective implementation of such strategies. The aim is for trade policy framework reviews to contribute to the (re)formulation and implementation of national trade policy regimes according to a country's own needs. The reviews, through analysis and consultative workshops, provide a tool for policymakers in developing countries, including LDCs, and countries with economies in transition, that enable them to set their own priorities, make impact assessments of policy options and devise the best actions, including at the sectoral level.



HOW ARE TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEWS CONDUCTED?

A review is initiated at the request of a Government. The counterpart ministry or agency is involved throughout the process, and relevant stakeholders are engaged as well to ensure ownership, desirability and feasibility of the policy recommendations. A review starts with a national consultative multi-stakeholder workshop to identify key trade and development challenges faced by the country, as well as possible solutions and policy reforms. Following the preparation of the review report, the analysis and policy recommendations emanating from the review are examined and validated at national multi-stakeholder validation workshops for further governmental action.

Resources permitting, UNCTAD further assists the Governments in the implementation of the policy recommendations presented in the reviews through advisory services and training activities to enhance the expertise of government officials involved in the formulation of national trade-related policies and negotiations. Support would also be offered for the actual formulation of national trade policy and facilitation of multi-stakeholder consultation towards the adoption and implementation of the reviews.



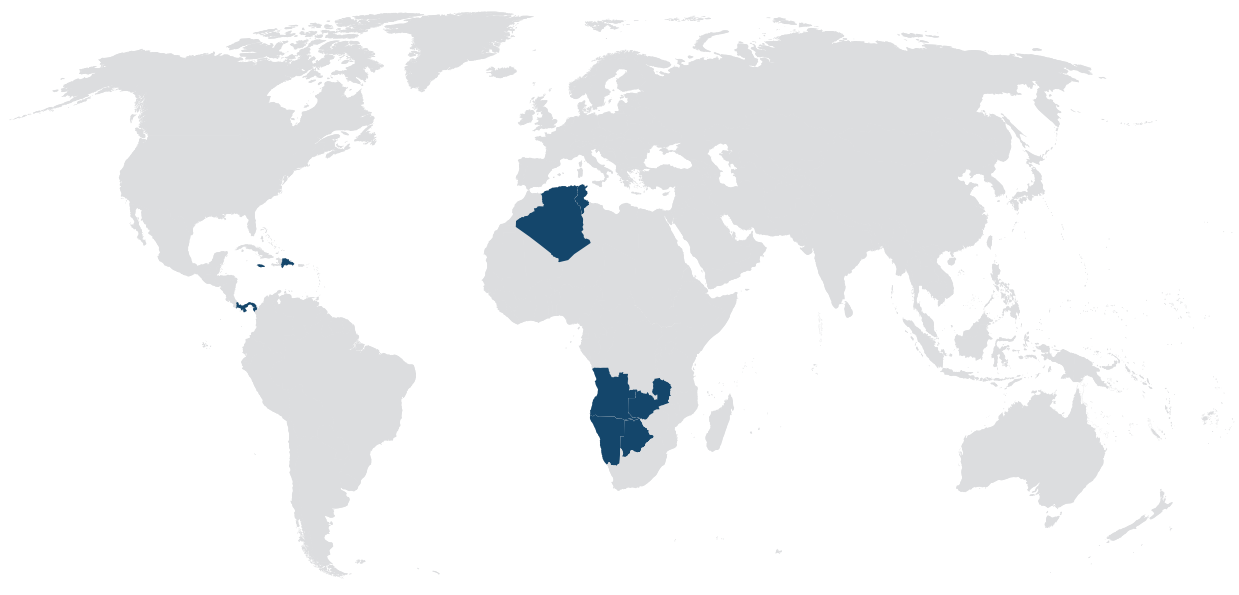
RESULTS AND IMPACTS AT A GLANCE

Since 2013, trade policy framework reviews have been conducted for nine countries. The reviews provided a sound basis for the reviewed countries to (re)formulate their national trade development strategies and policies aligned with their national development objectives.

- Based on the Trade Policy Framework Review of Rwanda, the Government adopted a new comprehensive trade policy framework.
- Several countries, such as *Botswana*, *Jamaica*, *Namibia* and *Zambia*, have embarked on the implementation of recommended policy measures by formulating draft national trade policy legislation and an implementation road map. Specifically, the reviews helped *Botswana* and *Jamaica* revise and update their national trade policy to achieve development objectives. Botswana has also prepared concrete and detailed action plans to implement the updated national trade policy. *Namibia* is developing a national trade policy following completion of the review, and the review has been helpful in guiding *Zambia* as it moves towards export diversification.



Trade policy framework reviews (2013–2019)



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: all regions

Start date: late 1990s, original approach; 2013, updated methodology

Reviews per year: 1–2

Number of reviews to date: more than 40 country or regional assessments of overall (or sectoral) trade policies

Upcoming reviews: Angola, Guyana, Mozambique

Programme website: unctad.org/TPF-Reviews



Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 17

Indirectly: 1, 8, 9



DONORS/FUNDING SOURCE (2014–2019)

Norway, United Nations Development Account