

Overview

The CTF Road from Rio to Geneva



First Substantive Meeting of CTF
Geneva, 5 – 6 November 2004
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Rio Workshop on Nature and Objectives of CTF ²


- The CTF is an open-ended multi-stakeholder forum of government, private sector and NGO representatives
- It assists DCs in analyzing key trends of environmental requirements (ERs) in export markets and to exchange national experience on pro-active approaches to meeting these ERs with a view to maintaining market access, harnessing developmental gains and safeguarding social welfare
- CTF activities are not intended to “second-guess” the legitimacy and objectives of environmental requirements, nor to develop guidelines for good regulatory practice.
- CTF activities will analyze and discuss ways of overcoming specific DC challenges regarding the development and implementation of, as well as adjustment to ERs



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Thrust of Activities and Modalities of the CTF [1] ³


- The CTF will provide a forum for well-structured and focused dialogue and networking on relevant issues at the interface of ERs and market access for DCs.
- The CTF will implement the following activities:
 - analysis, } **Think-tank function**
 - policy dialogue, }
 - facilitating information exchange,
 - supportive activities.
- CTF provides link between
 - policy issues and capacity constraints – holistic approach
 - WTO debate (para 32(ii) of DMD) and international and national levels
 - agencies and initiatives that provide TC/CE



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Thrust of Activities and Modalities of the CTF [2] ⁴


- Under its umbrella, the CTF may consider launching some specific, well-defined and time-limited project activities, whose results will aid the substantive debate in the CTF. Initially, this might include:
 - sector-specific experience in the preparation, adoption and implementation of regulations and standards and the related examination of possible trade implications for DCs;
 - the development of holistic, pro-active strategies in developing countries that effectively respond to ERs in key export markets;
 - improved access to and dissemination of information on ERs, including private-sector requirements.



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Moving from Concept to Action ⁵

- Key challenge for this session is to develop a well focused, country- and sector-centered work programme leading to practically relevant findings and initiatives
- Emphasis in work programme should be on concrete examples and practical approaches, rather than engaging in philosophical debate
- Sector- and country-focused project activities to be launched under the CTF can play a key role:
 - they might by themselves create practical results
 - they feed fact-based policy dialogue in the CTF
- Project activities should be time-limited, i.e. CTF will take decision whether they are continued, discontinued or handed over to other partners
- Work on creating a platform for information exchange should be well-defined and based on a realistic work programme
- Need for attracting extra-budgetary resources




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Useful On-line Reference ⁶

Website on CTF Activities

www.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/projects/taskforce.htm



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