

Contact Us

Our Objectives

With a view to enhancing their participation in services trade, this project is aimed at assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low-Income Countries (LICs), Lower-Middle Income Countries (LMICs), and their representative membership organisations (e.g. Regional Economic Communities or RECs) to participate more effectively in multilateral, regional and bilateral services trade negotiations.

Targeting a broad spectrum of stakeholders in TAF-eligible countries– negotiators, policymakers, regulators, statistical officers and various non-state actors, **the project seeks to promote:**

- Better collection and use of services statistics
- Improved institutional mechanisms for services-related decision-making
- Enhanced understanding on improving competitiveness in the services sector

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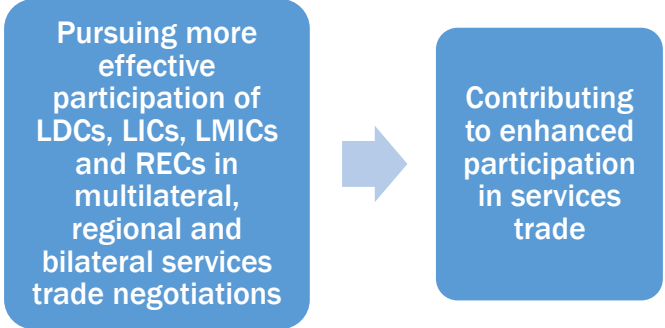
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Support to Enhance Development of Trade in Services Negotiations





Our support

Case Studies

The project will be preparing a number of case studies, primarily with a view to better understanding factors influencing 'best practise' interventions across a range of services-related topics.

Toolkits

Drawing on insights from the case studies and related project research, toolkits will be developed to serve as practical reference guides for policymakers and negotiators. These will offer highly targeted and practical suggestions to overcome specific challenges, ensuring accessible language for diverse audiences.

Training

Two 'pilot' regional workshops will be delivered, aimed at providing an integrated training experience across the project's themes. A webinar will also be convened (and available for future use) specifically for statistical officers to discuss ways of improving services trade data collection.

Outreach & Dissemination

Various outreach and dissemination activities will be undertaken, including through articles, briefing papers, and Geneva-based activities. The project website will anchor this area of work.

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The project website will serve as an information hub on a broad range of service-related topics. It will also enable experience-sharing amongst practitioners on selected issues.

Addressing challenges impacting services trade negotiations and policy-making

Services and services trade can play a central role in promoting sustainable development, supporting inclusive economic growth, and reducing poverty in modern economies. However, LDCs, LICs, and LMICs continue to face challenges in catalysing and/or sustaining progress across this diverse range of economic activities.

With respect to trade policy and related negotiations, services have become an increasingly visible feature of discussions – domestically, regionally, as well as at the bilateral and multilateral levels. A number of challenges impacting services trade negotiations and policy-making have been identified however. This includes:

- Not having access to reliable services trade data on which to base analysis and decision-making
- Inadequate skills for processing and analysing existing services trade data to underpin conclusions

- Ineffective interactions between stakeholders to support decision-making – within government, and between government and the private sector, civil society, and other non-state actors
- Limited understanding of the pathways through which services competitiveness can be enhanced

With support from the UK Trade Advocacy Fund, ILEAP, CUTS International Geneva and the University of Sussex's CARIS have partnered to undertake a series of interventions that seek to contribute to the increased and more effective participation of LDCs, LICs, LMICs and RECs in multilateral, regional and bilateral services trade negotiations. Through the studies, toolkits and training to be delivered, the envisaged results aim to assist these stakeholders in increasing their participation in services trade.

