



AFRICAN ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

CAPACITY BUILDING OF ARSO DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS NETWORK (ARSO-DISNET) NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINT EXPERTS ON TRANSPARENCY AND DATA ANALYSIS ON THE ATWP

ACCRA, GHANA - 2ND - 4TH OCTOBER 2024

PROGRAM OF WORK

Tuesday 24th September 2024

Arrival of Participants

Wednesday 2nd October 2024

| TIME | EVENT | RESPONSIBILITY |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 0800 – 0830 HRS | Registration | ARSO Central Secretariat |
| 0830 – 0845 HRS | Introduction of Participants | ARSO Central Secretariat |
| 0845 – 0930 HRS | Official Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghana Standards Authority - AfCFTA Secretariat - UNECA Official - UNIDO Official - WTO Secretariat - ARSO Secretary General - Invited Guest Speaker by UNIDO Theme - Need for effective Quality Infrastructure in Africa, including Regulatory Information and Transparency systems for the implementation of the EU-funded African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Quality Infrastructure Programme on “Supporting quality and regulatory infrastructure, value chain-specific quality infrastructure services and quality culture promotion in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of State”, also being implemented with ARSO. | |
| 0930 – 0940 HRS | Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work | ARSO Central Secretariat |
| 0915 – 0930 HRS | Group Photo | ARSO Central Secretariat |
| 0930 – 1000 HRS | Elaboration of WTO TBT Agreement and the AfCFTA TBT Agreement Transparency and Technical Information Sharing clauses | WTO Secretariat AfCFTA Secretariat |
| 1000 – 1030 HRS | HEALTH BREAK | All |
| 1030 – 1300 HRS | Understanding the AfCFTA Agreement and the need for Regulatory Cooperation Among African Countries under the TBT Annex 6 and on the Implementation of the Transparency Clauses | AfCFTA Secretariat |

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| | as per article 11 : The AfCFTA Secretariat initiatives and the cooperation opportunities under the ARSO DISNET | |
| 1145 – 1300 HRS | Avoidance of unnecessary Obstacles to Trade through Technical Information on Technical barriers to trade - The Practical Step by Step Guidelines on the understanding and implementation of the WTO TBT Agreement Transparency principle, provisions and Framework and how African countries can facilitate the process to benefit from Regulatory and Market Requirements Information to promote Intra-African Trade under the AfCFTA Agreement. | WTO Secretariat |
| 1300 – 1400 HRS | LUNCH BREAK | All |
| 1400 – 1500 HRS | Fostering trade integration in Africa through trade intelligence - Online trade opportunities across target markets in African countries and the trade obstacles and the need for Sector specific online data and guides to exporting to African countries under the African Single market - Implementing the African Trade Observatory as one of the five operational instruments of the AfCFTA and the Synergy with the ARSO DISNET. | AUC & ITC |
| 1500 – 1600 HRS | The African Integration and Trade opportunities through Regulatory Cooperations and effective Information Systems and resources - UNECA Benchmarks and role of Trade Web Portals and leveraging on synergies and the existing opportunities for cooperation. | UNECA |
| 1600 – 1630 HRS | HEALTH BREAK | All |
| 1630 – 1730 HRS | Regulatory Notification as an invaluable tool for reducing Technical Barriers to Trade and relevance in promoting Intra-African Trade - Practical guidelines on the Principles of ARSO Standards Harmonisation Process, including Transparency, and the implementation of the ARSO SHP01 (ASHAM) Notification principles and Procedures and the role of ARSO TCs and DISNET Experts. | ARSO Central |
| 1730 – 1830 HRS | Role of DISNET in promoting Transparency in relation to the African Trade Web Portal | ARSO Central Secretariat Dan Kithome |

Thursday 3rd October 2024

| TIME | EVENT | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| 0830 – 0930 HRS | Recap of the Previous Day The WTO e-Ping Technical Information System and Guidelines - a User practical guideline on effective Notification of Standards and Technical Regulations and lessons and opportunities for Synergy for the ARSO DISNET and member States. Practical Lessons as per recommendations of WTO TBT Committee contained in document G/TBT/1/Rev. 15. | ARSO Central Secretariat WTO Secretariat All |
| 0930 - 1030 HRS | Regulatory Notification as an invaluable tool for reducing Technical Barriers to Trade and relevance in promoting Intra-African Trade - Practical guidelines on the Principles of ARSO Standards Harmonisation Process, including Transparency, and the implementation of the ARSO SHP01 (ASHAM) Notification principles and Procedures and the role of ARSO TCs and DISNET Experts. | ARSO Central Secretariat |

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| 1030 - 1045 HRS | HEALTH BREAK | All |
| 1045 – 1300 HRS | Prioritising African Regional Value Chains and Made in Africa products as a basis for Intra-African Trade and Africa Industrialization under the AfCFTA's Africa Single Market and the need for real time access to Information on the Technical Market Requirements for Made in Africa products - UNECA Study 2019 study on products and standards harmonisation. | UNECA |
| | Step by Step Practical guidelines and operations of the African Trade Portal and opportunities for leveraging and interlinking with the ATWP - Practical demonstrations. | AUC & ITC |
| | The AfCFTA's NTB's online reporting, monitoring and eliminating mechanism - lessons and opportunities for DISNET as a source of Export and Import information in Africa. | AfCFTA Secretariat |
| | Development of Working Draft of the Guidelines for effective Information systems (Group Work) | WTO Secretariat ARSO Central Secretariat All |
| 1300 – 1400 HRS | LUNCH BREAK | All |
| 1400 – 1600 HRS | Development of Working Draft of the Guidelines for effective Information systems (Group Work) | ARSO Central Secretariat All |
| 1600 – 1630 HRS | HEALTH BREAK | All |
| 1630 – 1830 HRS | Review of the Group Work Activities and Presentation by Working Group Convenors | ARSO Central Secretariat All |

Friday 4th October 2024

| TIME | EVENT | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| 0830 – 1000 HRS | Common systems for classifying and indexing standards and related information, including the Use of Common HS Codes (AfCFTA HS Codes) for processing the information for ease of reference and identification - Practical Guidance on the use of HS Codes for classification of Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment. Review and Training on data entry and presentation by Member State officials on the African Trade Web-Portal. | ARSO Central Secretariat Dan Kithome |
| 1000 – 1030 HRS | HEALTH BREAK | All |
| 1030 – 1300 HRS | Review and Training on data entry and presentation by Member State officials on the African Trade Web-Portal Challenges and Solutions | ARSO Central Secretariat Dan Kithome |
| 1300 – 1400 HRS | LUNCH BREAK | All |
| 1400 – 1600 HRS | (i) Integrating and Interlinking of African/Members States Libraries into DISNET Online Library Networks (ARSONet) to facilitate access to and exchange of information member's standards. (ii) Identification of capacity needs by Member States for Capacity Building and African Trade Web-Portal Implementation (iii) Selection of Products to be Synchronised into the ATWP to enhance utilisation by Traders. (iv) Any other business. Date of next meeting | ARSO DISNET Secretariat All |
| 1600 – 1630 HRS | HEALTH BREAK | All |
| 1630 – 1830 HRS | Adoption of report of meeting | ARSO DISNET Secretariat All |

Friday Evening 4th October - Saturday 5th Friday 2024 - Departures