**TBT Transparency Champions**

**A PILOT capacity building programme of**

**the World Trade OrganiZation**

draft PROGRAMME

**Introduction**

The TBT Transparency Champions Programme, organized jointly by the Trade and Environment Division and the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), aims to further the implementation and benefits of the TBT transparency framework. The programme includes two in-person workshops in addition to regular virtual sessions and written exchanges over a six-month period, during which participants work on developing and implementing action plans. The in-person segments are planned for the following dates:

1. Geneva workshop (10 to 14 October 2022) - followed by virtual support sessions organized by the TBT Section.
2. Regional workshop (25 to 28 April 2023) – see programme attached

This pilot programme is organized for African countries and conducted in English, targeting government officials involved in the implementation of transparency provisions under the TBT Agreement. It will provide them with a comprehensive knowledge and skills base on:

1. **Transparency provisions**. The programme will support beneficiaries in gaining a solid knowledge of transparency provisions, TBT Enquiry Point functions and work of the TBT Committee;
2. **Digital tools**. The programme will put emphasis on the use of digital tools, in particular ePing, for the management of TBT information and communication with domestic stakeholders and international counterparts;
3. **Effective Coordination**. The programme will help participants map the institutional landscape and improve their communication with stakeholders involved in transparency, aiming to enhance coordination domestically and with trading partners. It will also help participants identify synergies at the regional level; and
4. **Network of Transparency Champions:** The programme will aim to identify transparency champions, who will promote good practices at national, regional and international levels, including through contributions to future training events and Committee work.

Participants will be required to complete a progress report prior to the regional workshop to report on the implementation of the action plans they developed with the support of mentors during the Geneva segment. By the end of the programme, they will have strengthened their ability to:

1. apply and benefit from the transparency framework, including managing notification flows and comments and contributing to TBT Committee work;
2. coordinate better with domestic stakeholders and trading partners and explore opportunities for synergies in the region; and
3. promote good practices and share experiences as transparency champions at national, regional and international levels.

For further information, please contact Una Flanagan (una.flanagan@wto.org) or Serra Ayral (serra.ayral@wto.org) from the Trade and Environment Division.

| **PART 2. REGIONAL WORKSHOP: 25 – 28 April** |
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|  | *Tuesday 25 April (Day 1)* | *Wednesday 26 April (Day 2)* | *Thursday 27 April (Day 3)* | *Friday 28 April (Day 4)* |
| **Morning***9.00-12.30* | **1. Opening session***Welcome back and introduction to workshop***\_\_\_\_\_\_****2. Review of TBT Agreement provisions using case studies** *WTO Secretariat, followed by group discussion* | **4. Recap of ePing functions:** **Tracking incoming notifications and communicating with domestic/international stakeholders***Overview by the WTO Secretariat, followed by sharing of experiences in using ePing by mentors and champions* | **6. Update on latest developments on TBT in the Africa region: how to benefit from synergies** *Group discussion with inputs from regional organizations* | **8. Action plans (continued)***Key learnings from action plans and steps going forward at national and regional levels, facilitated by mentors and the WTO Secretariat* |
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| *Lunch* | *Lunch* | *Lunch* |  |
| **Afternoon***14.00-17.00* | **3. Recap of ePing functions:** **How to submit notifications***Overview by the WTO Secretariat, followed by sharing of experiences in using ePing by mentors and champions* | **5. Latest developments in the TBT Committee and Transparency Working Group: how to engage** *Update by the WTO Secretariat and commentary by mentors, followed by group discussion and a simulation for raising a specific trade concern* | **7. Action plans***Presentations by champions of progress with their action plans, challenges and achievements, facilitated by mentors and the WTO Secretariat* | **9. Next steps: What's next for your champions network?** *Group discussion with champions, mentors and the WTO Secretariat***\_\_\_\_\_****10. Wrap up, evaluation and closing ceremony** |
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