## Regional Workshop on Technical Barriers to for Asian Members of the WTO

Manila, Philippines

14-16 November 2023

This Regional Workshop on the TBT Agreement will address the implementation of the WTO TBT Agreement. There will be a particular focus on environmental aspects related to the TBT Agreement. The TBT Agreement disciplines the use of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment promotes transparency and strongly encourages harmonization of Members' national regulations with relevant international standards, to facilitate trade and ensure regulatory compatibility across countries. It also promotes coherence and inclusivity of developing countries. The workshop will address the opportunities and challenges for Members in Asia with respect to the TBT Agreement. It will include a thematic focus on environment illustrated by the importance of standards in the iron and steel sector to achieve decarbonization.

| **Time** | **Day 1: Tuesday, 14 November** |
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| **The WTO TBT Agreement: general overview** | |
| 9:00-10:20 | **Opening and introductions**  - Philippine representatives and WTO  **Overview of WTO and TBT Agreement**  - WTO |
| 10:20-10:40 | Coffee break |
| 10:40-12:00 | **Overview of WTO and TBT Agreement,**  - WTO |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-14:45 | **Technical Regulations and Good Regulatory Practices (GRP)**  What are the GRP and how can they contribute to effective implementation of the obligations under the TBT Agreement? Exercise.  - WTO |
| 14:45-15:05 | Coffee break |
| 15:05-16:00 | **Standards and Trade**  Overview of WTO TBT disciplines and guidance on the preparation, adoption and application of national standards, regional standards, and international standards.  - WTO |

| **Time** | **Day 2: Wednesday, 15 November** |
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| **The WTO TBT Agreement: general overview** | |
| 9:00-10:20 | **Transparency**  The key principles of transparency under the TBT Agreement, ePing platform  -WTO |
| 10:20-10:40 | **Coffee break** |
| 10:40-12:00 | **The work of the WTO TBT Committee**  Overview of current issues, specific trade concerns, key decisions, and recommendations.  - WTO |
| 12:00-13:00 | **Lunch** |
| 13:00-14:45 | **Environment and TBT:** How the topics of trade and environment arise in the TBT Committee (notifications, specific trade concerns, disputes, thematic sessions)  - WTO  **The role of standards**. How are standards used to measure embodied greenhouse emissions? What are some of the key features and differences between standards, including emissions scope and boundaries.  *- External speakers (IEA, ISO)* |
| 14:45-15:05 | **Coffee break** |
| 15:05-16:00 | **Labelling and TBT:** How do issues such as labelling arise in TBT Context (notifications, specific trade concerns, disputes, thematic sessions)  - WTO |

| **Time** | **Day 3, Thursdsay, 16 November** |
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| **Thematic focus: environment and standards in the steel sector** | |
| 9:00-10:20 | **The importance of international cooperation:** Overview of standards and regulations in the steel sector – the role of policies, regulations, and standards. A discussion of the risk of regulatory fragmentation and challenges for trade and climate.  *- External speakers (World Steel Association, IEA, OECD, UNIDO)*  **Why do definitions and performance thresholds matter?**  Panel discussion on different approaches to defining green steel and setting related performance standards, including in the context of regulation.  *- External speakers (UNIDO IDDI, ResponsibleSteel)* |
| 10:20-10:40 | **Coffee break** |
| 10:40-12:00 | **Summary discussion and closure**  - Summary discussion and feed-back from participants  - WTO, participants |
| 12:00-13:00 | **Lunch** |