 

**WTO Technical Barriers to Trade National Workshop**

Kingston, Jamaica

28 November - 1 December 2022

This workshop aims to enhance the capacity of Jamaican government officials to effectively implement the WTO TBT Agreement. Following the establishment of the BSJ Technical Regulations Unit, this training will support relevant officials in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to review their systems and tools with respect to the preparation, development and application of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. This includes the use of regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and the role of Multidisciplinary Committees (MDCs) of the pertinent MDAs. This workshop is expected to strengthen monitoring and enforcement through conformity assessment procedures, resulting in a robust regulatory infrastructure which ensures that relevant requirements in technical regulations are being fulfilled. This workshop will include three complementary parts:

1. Senior Officials' forum on conformity assessment procedures and the WTO TBT Agreement;
2. Technical training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); and
3. Training for National TBT Committee members and other relevant stakeholders.

**28 November 2022**

**Senior Officials' forum on conformity assessment procedures and the TBT Agreement**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 9:00 | **Opening Session**  Opening remarks and welcome. | * Jamaica representative (TBC)   + MIIC PS   + BSJ ED * WTO representative |
| 09:15 | **Session 1: Regulations, standards, and trade: introduction to the WTO TBT Agreement** | * WTO speaker |
| 09:45 | **Session 2: Current developments in Jamaica's regulatory practices and infrastructure** | * MIIC Commerce Department (name tbc) * NCRA (name tbc) * MoH (name tbc) |
| 10:15 | **Open forum for discussion**  What are the key challenges and opportunities for Jamaica around technical barriers to trade (TBT)? | * All |
| 10:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:00 | **Session 3: National coordination**  Ensuring effective national coordination with respect to TBT matters. | * WTO speaker * BSJ? |
| 11:30 | **Session 4: Good Regulatory Practices and conformity assessment procedures**  How good regulatory practices (GRP), including the use of regulatory impact assessment (RIA), supports implementation of the TBT Agreement. | * WTO speaker |
| 12:00 | **Open forum for experience sharing and discussion**  Participating agencies to share their experiences and experiences with respect to technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. | * All * (Identify and request 10 min presentations from Ministries – MIIC/NCRA, MoA, MoH) |
| 12:30 | **Closing** | * Jamaica representative * WTO representative |

**29 November 2022**

**Technical training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) – Day 1**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 9:00 | **Opening Session.**  Welcome and roundtable introductions | * All |
| 9:45 | **Session 1: Regulations, standards, and trade: introduction to the WTO TBT Agreement** | * WTO speaker |
| 10:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:00 | **Session 2: Good Regulatory Practice and the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI)**  Preparing, adopting, and applying technical regulations, and the supporting role of the NQI (standards, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, as well as market surveillance) | * WTO speaker * External expert speaker |
| 11:45 | **Session 3: Exercise on identifying the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI)** | * External expert speaker * WTO speaker |
| 12:30 | **Lunch** |  |
| 13:30 | **Session 4: Using international standards, guides, and recommendations**  Understanding international best practices for conformity assessment procedures, including the ISO/CASCO toolbox. | * Dr. Cristina Draghici, Director, Conformity Assessment and Consumer Matters, ISO * External expert speaker |
| 14:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 15:00 | **Session 5: Applying technical regulations through conformity assessment procedures** Introduction to different conformity assessment procedures (e.g. sampling, inspection, verification), and how and when to use them. | * External expert speaker * WTO speaker |
| 16:15 | **Open forum for discussion** | * All |
| 16:30 | **Wrap-up of Day 1** | * WTO speaker |

**30 November 2022**

**Technical training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) – Day 2**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 09:00 | **Session 5: Group exercise on developing and applying conformity assessment procedures**  Participants will work in groups to develop a conformity assessment scheme. | * External expert speaker * WTO speaker * All |
| 10:15 | **Session 5 (cont'd): Group exercise reporting and open discussion** | * External expert speaker * All |
| 10:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:00 | **Session 7: Post-market control and enforcement**  Introduction and key principles of market surveillance and enforcement mechanisms. | * External expert speaker * Dr. Cristina Draghici, Director, Conformity Assessment and Consumer Matters, ISO |
| 12:00 | **Open forum for discussion** | * All |
| 12:30 | **Lunch Break** |  |
| 13:30 | **Session 8: Trust and confidence – accreditation and recognition**  The role of accreditation in providing trust and confidence to facilitate trade, including through recognition or acceptance of conformity assessment results. | * External expert speaker * Dr. Cristina Draghici, Director, Conformity Assessment and Consumer Matters, ISO * WTO speaker |
| 14:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 15:00 | **Session 9: Regulatory cooperation and RTAs**  Arrangements that are used to facilitate recognition of conformity assessment results. | * WTO speaker * External expert speaker |
| 15:45 | **Open forum for discussion** | * All |
| 16:15 | **Wrap-up of Day 2 and closing** | * WTO speaker |

**1 December 2022**

**Training for National TBT Committee members and other relevant stakeholders**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 09:00 | **Session 1: Regulations, standards, and trade: introduction to the WTO TBT Agreement** | * WTO speakers |
| 10:00 | **Session 2: Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures** | * WTO speakers |
| 10:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:00 | **Session 3: Group exercise on TBT measures** | * WTO speakers |
| 12:00 | **Open forum for discussion** | * All |
| 12:30 | **Lunch Break** |  |
| 13:30 | **Session 4: Transparency and ePing**  Introduction to transparency, notification practices and ePing, the digital TBT/SPS platform. | * WTO speakers |
| 14:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 15:00 | **Session 5: National coordination**  This session will present the importance of the national coordination mechanism and provide an opportunity for discussion amongst Jamaican stakeholders. | * All |
| 15:45 | **Session 6: The WTO TBT Committee**  This session will briefly present the recent work of the WTO TBT Committee, including the discussion of specific trade concerns and the development of guidance through decisions and recommendations. | * WTO speaker |
| 16:15 | **Wrap-up and closing**  This session will provide an overview of the main topics covered during the workshop. There will be opportunity for question and answer, and an open space for discussion. | * WTO speakers * All |

**WTO resource speakers:**

**Mr. Lauro Locks**

Legal Counsellor, Technical Barriers to Trade

Trade and Environment Division

World Trade Organization

**Mr. Devin McDaniels**

Economic Affairs Officer, Deputy-Secretary of the TBT Committee

Trade and Environment Division

World Trade Organization

**External expert speakers:**

Mr. Warrren Merkel

Chief of Standards Services, Standards Coordination Office

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Cristina Draghici

Director, Conformity Assessment and Consumer Matters, ISO