



República de Guinea Ecuatorial
Ministerio de Comercio y Promoción
de Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas

Núm. _____

Ref. _____

Secc. _____

Third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa

SESSION 4

WTO Accessions and AfCFTA: Building Synergies on Process

Perspectives of Acceding Governments and the Private Sector

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION IN WTO ACCESSION AND AfCFTA NEGOTIATIONS – TRADE NEGOTIATOR’S PERSPECTIVES, by H.E. Mr Domingo MBA ESONO, Vice Minister of Commerce and Promotion of SMEs, Equatorial Guinea.

The Inter-agency Coordination in both processes in Equatorial Guinea is as follows:

The MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & PROMOTION OF SMEs is, by law, the governmental department responsible for designing, planning and implementing the national policies in order to promote and develop trade activities and SMEs in the Equatorial Guinea.

Since the trade sector is horizontal, to liaising with the sectorial institutions concerned, at national level, under a Presidential Decree, it is established a NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR TRADE INTEGRATION, which is formed by representatives of governmental departments and institutions, national parliament, judiciary, chamber of commerce, civil society and the private

sector. This National Committee is chaired by the SECRETARY GENERAL of the Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of SMEs.

The National Committee is assisted by a TECHNICAL COMMITTEE integrated by technical experts of the respective sectors and institutions concerned called FOCAL POINTS, which is served as a technical advisory or consultative body.

The Technical Committee is chaired by the DIRECTOR GENERAL of Trade in the Ministry of Trade and Promotion of SME, technically assisted by UNITS OF IMPLEMENTATION of the EIF, in one hand, and of the REFERENCE CENTRE for acceding to WTO, both attached to the Ministry.

For decision making purposes, both Committees are reporting to the VICE-MINISTER OF COMMERCE & PROMOTION OF SMEs, as the Lead Negotiator of the Government, who reports to the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND PROMOTION OF SMEs, who at his capacity reports to the INTER-MINISTERIAL COUNCIL presided by the PRIME MINISTER and again later, to the COUNCIL OF MINISTERS chaired by THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The deliberations and decisions taken at the Council of Ministers level are channelled via DEPARTMENT IN CHARGE OF PARLIAMENT AND LEGAL AFFAIRES OF THE GOVERNMENT before reaching THE PARLIAMENT comprised of two Chambers, of the Deputes and the Senate, for further approvals and adoption for ratification by the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HEAD OF STATE.

This approval process had led to the quickest ratification of the EG Government decision to become a 26th full member state of the AfCFTA and, hopefully, the same interactive approaches and efforts, deployed by all the stakeholders involved in the current acceding process of Equatorial Guinea to the WTO, will follow.

Nonetheless, Equatorial Guinea, being a young player as an LDC in the sub-regional, regional and multilateral trade systems, is lacking of structures, platforms and support in terms of capacity building, which now-a-day is partially provided by the WTO EIF and Reference Centre for WTO Accession. This is been evident during the negotiation process to acceding to AfCFTA,

and moreover at this crucial phase of its implementation, especially in the fulfilment of the Member States obligations to provide their respective lists of tariffs liberalization on trading Goods and Services, and the AUC request.

In that regard, the CEMAC subregion, through the Division of Trade and Industry of the AUC, had submitted the harmonized list of tariffs liberalization on Goods, while the Member States of the AfCFTA, including Equatorial Guinea are still straggling in providing lists of tariffs liberalization on Services, due to domestic policy and institutional constraints.

To find the way out from this straggle, the Equatorial Guinea Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of SMEs has sent an immediate request for technical assistance from AUC, but so far there is no reply.

We take this opportunity to further request for the appropriate technical assistance in these matters, in order to deliver on the timeline frame before the operational phase of AfCFTA started on July 1st 2020.

THANKS FOR ATTENTION!
