



# Facilitating Compliance to the TBT Agreement with the Use of e-Ping

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# Outline



- Agency responsibility
- Challenges/Limitations
- Recommendations
- Regional Initiatives
- Summary
- Next Steps

# Agency Responsibility



## ➤ The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) responsibility:

- Implementation and Administration of the WTO TBT agreement
- Operation of the national TBT Enquiry Point

# Challenges with Tracking and Commenting on Notifications



## ➤ Challenges

- ePing is not widely used nationally
- No formal coordinating structure for stakeholders:
  - related to TBT matters (eg. National committee)
  - to educate on ePing use and registration
  - to develop national positions
  - to enable sectoral comments
- Currently, National WTO TBT Enquiry Point individually receives and disseminates comments on notifications

# Regional Initiatives



## ➤ Regional Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, Information Management and Enquiry Points (TIE)

- Assisting CARICOM member states with the update of Enquiry Point information and notification of Implementation Statements
- Provides linkage to regional Enquiry Points

**Tool:** - questionnaire to request enquiry point information and to identify assistance needed with implementation statements

**Status:** responses to the questionnaires are being collated

# ePing - Tool to Facilitate the Work of the Regional and National Committees



## ➤ ePing

- a tool to effectively address time constraints of national/regional committees
- facilitates sectorial discussions on proposed notifications
- can assist with national Enquiry Point discussions for harmonization regionally
- can disseminate specific sectoral information

# Summary



## ➤ Summary

## ➤ ePing is a tool

- stand alone maximum benefits will not be derived
- In the absence of a forum to educate on ePing's advantages and benefits
  - its use will not increase
  - limited analysis and data capture
  - limited experience in its use

# Next Steps



## ➤ Next Steps

- Technical Assistance to facilitate a national WTO Workshop on transparency and the use of ePing
- Approval for a national coordinating committee for non-tariff barriers



**Thank You for your attention**



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