

## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

### Sustainable Trade: What role for Voluntary Sustainability Standards?

24 March 2020

Meeting Room C+D, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Time	Topic
08:30 - 09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00 - 10:30	<p><i>Opening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming Remarks</li> </ul> <p><i>Session 1: Setting the scene - How does trade help accelerate actions for the Agenda 2030?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can trade and trade policy contribute to the achievement of the SDGs?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Findings from the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019: Navigating Non-tariff Measures towards Sustainable Development and 2017: Channelling Trade and Investment into Sustainable Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Why do we look at green trade through Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Findings from UNCTAD's project <i>Fostering green exports through VSS in Asia and Pacific</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea</i>
11:00 - 12:30	<p><i>Session 2: Getting deeper - What are VSS and how can they contribute to the Agenda 2030?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge test: What are VSS?</li> <li>• How do VSS influence today's international trade?</li> <li>• What benefits/challenges do VSS present to different stakeholders?</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12:30 - 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 - 15:00	<p><i>Session 3: Learning from actions – How does a multi-stakeholder approach to VSS work?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach tested by UNCTAD and three countries                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multi-stakeholder process for policy coordination</li> <li>○ Importance of understanding stakeholder-specific needs (the VSS Assessment Toolkit)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Country cases – Which product? Which multi-stakeholder framework? How were challenges addressed? Outputs and outcome?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lao PDR/Philippines/Vanuatu</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Approaches by other countries</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:00 - 15:30	<i>Coffee/tea</i>
15:30 - 17:00	<p><i>Session 4: Moving forward – Will regional cooperation help?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A regional framework to encourage green trade and its contribution to the SDGs?</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
	<i>Closing remarks</i>