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28 - 30 August 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

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UNCTAD support to DCs in trade negotiations & trade-related CB started well before the establishment of the

UNCTAD IX Midrand 1996

UNCTAD IX Midrand, South Africa, April 1996

Para 91:

"**UNCTAD's** main role in the field of trade in goods & services should be to help maximize the positive the positive impact of globalization & liberalization on sustainable development by assisting in the effective integration of DCs, particularly LDCs & certain DCs with structurally weak & vulnerable economies, into the international trading **system.... assisting** countries in the process of accession to WTO, including by helping them to enhance their understanding of WTO rights & obligations, as well as improving the transparency of their trade regimes; identifying impediments to trading success, including **barriers to export expansion & diversification...**"

UNCTAD X: Plan of action (Bangkok , 12-19 Feb. 2000)

"... UNCTAD should continue to provide assistance to countries acceding to WTO in order to contribute to their early accession and to the universalization of the multilateral trading system".

UNCTAD XI: São Paulo Consensus (June 2004)

"UNCTAD should provide enhanced technical support and cooperation to all developing countries, particularly LDCs, and ... **prior to, during, and in the follow-up to their WTO accession process**";

UNCTAD XIV (Nairobi Maafikiano, July 2016)

Para: 38.

"(x) Continue to provide and reinforce its TA & CB to DCs and countries with economies in transition before, during & in the follow-up of the process of accession to the WTO"

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"UNCTAD is strategically positioned to empower acceding countries to better define their trade objectives & integrate them effectively into their development plans, advance their interests in international trade negotiations, monitoring & enforcement, shape & sequence international regulatory practices, & take advantage of the trading opportunities of the

Evaluation report on **of UNCTAD's TA assistance CB on** accession to the WTO.



Road

WTO accession is a challenging process involving wide-ranging policy reforms and legislative actions by acceding countries;

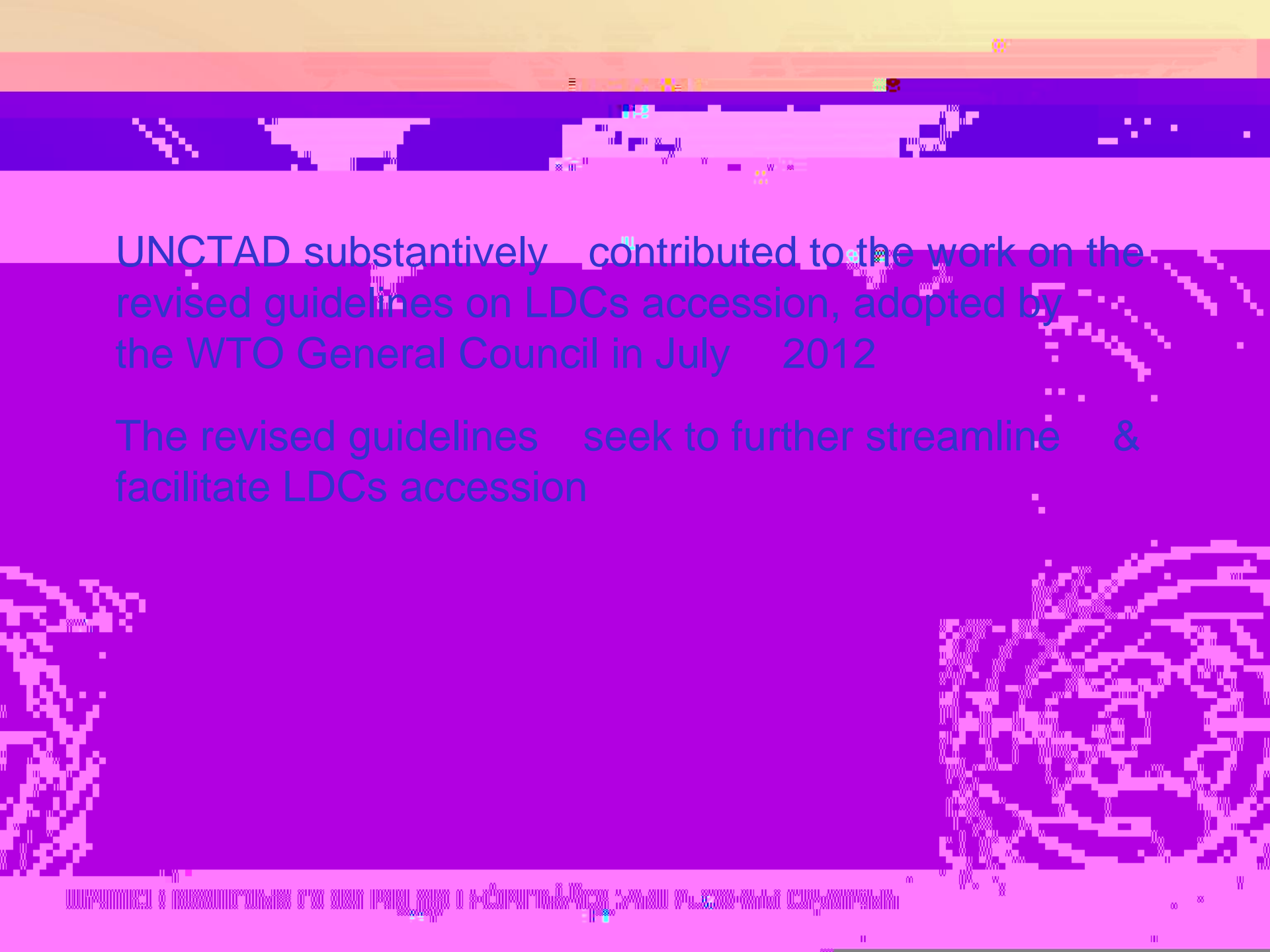
Majority of candidates are DCs. For them, the challenges range

F E Ac c e f e c d R U T f d

After the establishment of WTO in 1995, countries that were not original members had to apply for accession under the provisions of Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement;

While all DCs & ET have benefited from UNCTAD's TA for their accession , UNCTAD recognizes - and seeks to address AS A PRIORITY challenges faced by LDCs;

Majority of them have benefited from UNCTAD's TA & CB at different stages of their accession process, including: China, RF, Ukraine,



UNCTAD substantively contributed to the work on the revised guidelines on LDCs accession, adopted by the WTO General Council in July 2012

The revised guidelines seek to further streamline & facilitate LDCs accession



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Strengthen the capacities of trade-supporting national institutional structures (including the academic community) through training and joint analysis of the relevant problem areas

Assist in establishing the national-level permanent structures such as an inter-ministerial WG to coordinate WTO matters especially, & in developing a multi-stakeholder, inter-institutional approach that allows consultations & coordination between all relevant ministries

Build awareness through workshops to sensitize negotiating teams, government agencies, private sector & academia, as well as key policy-makers, including parliamentarians on the GATT/WTO agreements, the accession process, as well as on obligations & development implications of WTO membership

Coach the negotiating teams in the preparation of the Working Party meetings & bilateral negotiations

Assist in the preparation & review of domestic legislations for GATT and WTO consistency, and action plan

Undertake sectoral impact studies on the impact of WTO accession on the national economy using national experts/ consultants to develop capacity of national research institutes and universities;

Post-accession activities including assistance to implement commitments made in the process of accession including, TPRs & notifications

Free Trade Agreements

Nairobi Maafikiano : paras 38. (z) and 55. (c)

TPF Reviews support the (re)formulation & implementation of national trade policy regimes according to countries' development priorities that are supportive for SDGs realization

UNCTAD assisted countries in preparing SDG-oriented TPFs (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia and Zambia) and also provided related support to others (e.g., Bhutan, Kenya, African countries)

Ten national TPF studies were completed, and the policy recommendations validated by **strengthened stakeholders'** policy formulation, implementation and analytical skills.

Exchange of country experiences & lessons learnt was conducted at an inter -regional level in an Inter -regional Meeting on Trade Policy and Sustainable Development (18 -19 July 2016, Nairobi, Kenya)

UNCTAD assistance enhanced ability of policymakers and trade negotiators to analyze, formulate and implement SDG -oriented trade policies

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SPR Activities

Launch of the review process

Desk-based assessment

1st multi-stakeholder consultation

Field research and follow-up investigations

2nd multi-stakeholder consultation for validation

Dissemination

Implementation & follow-up

Towards the services master plan / strategy

Accession

Delivery of TA & CB programmes on accession, in close cooperation with the WTO Secretariat & other relevant multilateral and bilateral agencies like WIPO, WB, FAO, ITC, ESCWA, ECA, UNDP, SIDA, EU, IsDB...(joint advisory missions, seminars & workshops)

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Elaborate CLEAR negotiating objectives based on an analysis of basic economic strategies and policies

Effective & WELL COORDINATED governmental machinery is needed to support negotiations

The process has to involve various ministries & all stakeholders including private sector & civil society be placed at highest level of GVT

Make full use of observer status

Accession negotiations and membership require considerable strengthening of national regulatory and institutional infrastructure

Keep negotiating team stable



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Closely follow current accession negotiations

Network with key members for obtaining concrete support, use Chairperson to lobby your specific interests & use good offices of DG.

Evaluation of negotiations would provide lessons learnt & important insights 0

Thank you!

Contacts

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