

UNCTAD perspectives in RTA negotiations and implementations

**Regional Workshop on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Trade & Investment
Facilitation (CARTIF)
Istanbul, Türkiye
19-20 June 2024**

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Geneva, Switzerland, 5 June 2024

UNCTAD experience on assisting countries in drafting and implementing FTAs

- UNCTAD has been assisting countries during trade negotiations among Developed/developing countries and in RTAs in developing regional FTA
- I assisted the establishment of the SADC trade protocol and assisted countries in negotiating FTA
- The ambitions and coverage of the FTA matters as increasingly the level of ambitions grows
- From trade in goods to services , to IPRs, public procurement and most recently e-commerce and digital service
- Each of this topic requires extensive expertise and drafting skills
- While ownership is a key aspect ,external technical assistance should be welcomed to avoid fatal mistakes

Basic tenets in organizational matters in drafting/negotiating FTAs

- Chairperson role in leading and organizing the drafting and negotiations is a key aspect: a Neutral High level ranking knowledgeable on trade matters is needed to play a neutral role and mediate to achieve consensus on
- An efficient and accountable secretariat to manage and service the negotiations with high convening powers
- Availability of a back up team able to quickly produce short papers based on quantitative and qualitative data to be able to back up negotiations and facilitate consensus
- Maintain link to private sector and allow their inputs into trade negotiations

UNCTAD specific topics on drafting and negotiating

- tariffs
- RoO
- NTMs
- Services
- Investment
- Trade facilitation
- Competitions law
- E-commerce