

ERIA-UNCTAD: Updating NTMs in ASEAN

1. **Title:** Consultant (ERIA-UNCTAD: NTMs in ASEAN)

2. Background

To follow up on the decision of the 49th ASEAN Economic Ministerial (AEM) meeting, ERIA and UNCTAD will carry the mandate to renew the NTM database on a regular basis and analyze policy options for addressing NTMs. With tariffs subjected to WTO disciplines, we would expect to see an increasing number of non-tariff measures (NTMs) designed to protect domestic firms and industries. This trend is also seen in ASEAN, one of the fastest growing regions in terms of economy growth and trade.

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) in general are defined as policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can have an economic effect on international trade. NTMs thus include a wide and diverse array of policies having economic effect on international trade in goods, changing the quantities traded, or prices, or both (UNCTAD, 2013). The Global Trade Alert, a think tank, noted a substantial rise in the number of NTMs between 2008 and 2011. However, the increase in the number of NTMs across the globe is not necessarily a bad sign for the economy. As consumer wealth rises around the world, the demands on governments for health, safety and environmental protection rise as well.

For ASEAN, the latest official data on NTMs by HS-4 digit for ASEAN Member State that was released by the ASEAN Secretariat was only available in 2009. To answer the need for NTM transparency that is key in improving export capacities, ERIA in collaboration with UNCTAD had conducted the first comprehensive ASEAN NTM data collection in 2015. The NTM database is currently accessible for public at <http://asean.i-tip.org/> and has received appreciation from the ASEAN Economic Minister who mandated that ERIA and UNCTAD update the database on a regular basis.

In view of the above, the purpose of the consultancy is to update the existing ASEAN NTM database by collecting and validating NTMs related information in each consultant's assigned country, by drawing on information from official sources and using the UNCTAD's NTMs classification and methodological guidelines. This consultancy falls within UNCTAD and ERIA's collaboration which aims to identify, collect and classify NTMs of ASEAN countries. It will contribute to improving export capacities by providing trading partners with access to NTMs related information. Lastly, it

will assist policy-makers in producing impact assessment analysis of trade related reforms by providing reliable and up-to-date NTMs' information.

3. Objectives

The key objectives of the consultancy are:

1. To update the existing ASEAN NTMs database, by collecting and validating the most up-to-date NTM information from official sources.
2. To further develop export capacities by improving NTM transparency and providing trading partners with access to NTMs related information.
3. To conduct rigorous analyses on NTMs and how these will affect trade policy and overall trade performance.
4. To provide insights for NTMs streamlining in ASEAN

4. Outputs and tasks

Outputs

- 4.1. Output 1: Data on NTMs in country XXX (consultant's country of origin) implemented up to March 2018 (all specific regulations that are in effect and implemented by March 2018 (in XL using a template provided by UNCTAD).¹ All NTM data, including information from legislation (law or regulations) must all be written in English.
 - 4.1.1. Output 1.1 (NTM data collection –first review of data validation)
 - 4.1.2. Output 1.2 (NTM data collection –second review of data validation)
- 4.2. Output 2: A descriptive analysis on NTMs in country XXX (consultant's country of origin) and policy recommendations on streamlining NTMs in the country (in XL, STATA and Word).

Tasks

Under the supervision and management of the ERIA and UNCTAD, the consultant will aim at collecting all trade and other regulations which are and could be in the category of NTMs from official sources for country XXX , and classifying them according to UNCTAD's NTMs classification system using the Guidelines to collect NTMs and a data entry template provided by UNCTAD.

To that end, the consultant will be required to perform the following activities:

1. Identify official sources on all trade-related regulations in the assigned country based on the NTMs classification developed by UNCTAD and indicate institutions/agencies responsible for the issuance of those regulations, including their contact information

¹ The regulations could be issued back to years before, even a long time ago. As long as the regulations are in effect in 2015 (SPS, TBT, import and export licensing, export restrictions, customs surcharges, as well as anti-dumping and safeguard measures), they will be categorized as NTMs in effect.

(emails, phone); how the info can be accessed (website, CDs or printed documents); and the language in which they are usually published. A note should be made whenever texts are available in English.

2. Classify the regulations by the measure (using the new NTM classification system) and the product to which they apply (which may be multiple), based on the Harmonized Coding System (HS code) at the most detailed level (national tariff line) for all types of officially available regulations.

2.a. Enter official NTMs data collected in an excel worksheet with the following information: (i) name, description, web-link of the source; (ii) name, description, web-link and date of implementation of the regulation; (iii) measure code description and objective of the measure; (iv) affected product code and description; (v) affected countries.

2.b. Send the legislations by electronic format all trade regulations identified whenever these are not available on-line or in electronic format and send them along with the filled template.

3. At the completion of data collection, the consultant will be requested to draft a brief summary report on the comprehensiveness and quality of the data collected (5-10 pages). Comprehensiveness and quality of the data collected and classify is of the outmost importance for this exercise. UNCTAD will constantly monitor and supervise on the basis of these two parameters.
4. Conduct a short descriptive analysis on NTMs in the country and provide policy recommendations in developing NTMs that could meet the goals to protect consumers' health and environment; and recommendations on streamlining the existing NTMs. The length of the analysis and policy recommendations is about 2,000-3,000 words).

5. Time Frame

No	Description	Date
1	Call for Proposal and selection process	Sep-Dec 2017
	Contract signed by consultants	Jan 2018
2	Mandatory on-line training	Jan-Feb 2018
3	Mandatory team workshop Briefings on renewal strategy, review, updated MAST classification, updated HS code	20-22 Mar 2018
4	NTM Update	
	a. First submission (consultant is expected to finish identifying legislation sources)	30 April 2018

	b. Final submission (consultant is expected to finish 75% of data collection)	30 June 2018
5	Review	Jul-Aug 2018
6	Validation workshop	Sep 2018
7	Final Report	Nov 2018
8	Publication and IT work on data	Dec 2018
9	Launch of database and report	Jan 2019

Before embarking on the exercise:

- (i) The selected consultant is expected to take on-line course on NTMs (see the links provided) and learn guidelines on NTM data collection and NTM classification.
<http://vi.unctad.org/video/ntm/m0/player.html>
<http://vi.unctad.org/video/ntm/m1/player.html>
<http://vi.unctad.org/video/ntm/m2/player.html>
<http://vi.unctad.org/video/ntm/m3/player.html>
<http://vi.unctad.org/video/ntm/m4/player.html>
<http://vi.unctad.org/video/ntm/m5/player.html>
- (i) The consultant will be invited to a 'mandatory' training on the latest data collection methodology for the identification, collection and classification of NTMs. The materials will be provided by ERIA-UNCTAD.

* The workshop aims to provide a training for economist/technician/statistician who undertakes the work of the NTM data collection. ERIA will invite 2 (two) selected consultants from one team (or one country) and one nominated government official from Ministry of Trade (or equivalent ministry) recommended by the national consultant.

6. Payment

The schedule for payment of constituting part of the Contract Amount shall be as follows:

1. Installment 1: 20% of the total consultancy fee shall be proceeded upon the accomplishment of Output 1.1 (mentioned in 4.1.1). During this phase of the project the consultant will be expected to complete the legislation source identification. UNCTAD will monitor the comprehensiveness of the source identification.
2. Installment 2: 40% after the accomplishment of Output 1.2 (mentioned in 4.1.2) presentation of partially filled NTM template as per UNCTAD; the consultant is expected to deliver mid-term NTM data collection or 75% of all NTMs collection and classification before the 2nd installment.
3. Installment 3: 40% after completion of Outputs 1.1-1.2 and 2 (mentioned in 4.1.1-4.1.2 and 4.2) which include the final report and data collection and classification of NTM as per UNCTAD's methodology together with quality control of the data provided, upon the approval from the ERIA management team.

7. Contract period

Consultants will provide service on an interim basis from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

8. Project Coordinator:

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9. Qualifications of the leading consultant

- Postgraduate degree in international economics, international business or a related discipline from a recognized university.
- At least 5 years of progressive work experience in the fields of International Trade including quantitative research and a track record of relevant publications. Knowledge in NTMs is preferable.
- Solid understanding of trade issues in a consultant's own country.
- Familiarity with workings of international organizations.

10. Intellectual Property

The Consultant recognizes the importance of protecting and respecting intellectual property rights. The Consultant recognizes that ERIA and UNCTAD remains the sole proprietor of data classified and that both the ERIA and UNCTAD will make the data available for free and through open dissemination, either through ERIA's website, WITS/TRAINS portal or other means. The work conducted by consultant/ Research institute and source of the data shall be duly acknowledged.

