



## **The Mode 4 issue and LDCs:**

### **Reaping development benefits through building Competitive Capacities and tackling Market Access Difficulties**

**9h00-14h00**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
Room C 2  
(Avenue de la Paix 7 bis, 1202 Geneva)**

Dear Partners and Friends,

ICTSD and QUNO have the pleasure to invite you to a dialogue on **'The Mode 4 issue and LDCs: Reaping development benefits through building Competitive Capacities and tackling Market Access difficulties:'**, to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009, 9h30-14h00, at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Room C2, Avenue de la Paix 7 bis, 1202 Geneva.

The objective of the roundtable is to deepen the substantive knowledge of policymakers and stakeholders able to influence policy decisions of (i) those services sectors and modes of supply that could act as drivers to growth and sustainable development in Least Developed Countries and (ii) the rules and flanking measures which need to be in place to realise this potential

Three studies, two commissioned by ICTSD and one by QUNO, will be presented and discussed.

Daniel Crosby will present the findings of his study **'Advancing services export interests of Least Developed Countries: Toward GATS commitments on the temporary movement of natural persons for the supply of low-skilled and semi-skilled services'**, with Sabrina Varma sharing her perspective in the study **'Facilitating Temporary labour mobility in African LDC's: Addressing Mode 4 related Supply-side constraints'**

Additionally, David Zafar Ahmed will contribute to the discussions by presenting the study he did jointly with Uri Friedman titled **'Ensuring Temporariness: Mechanisms to Incentivise return Migration in the Context of GATS Mode 4 and Least Developed Country Interests'**

## BACKGROUND

The studies give an identification and assessment of the specific sectors and sub-sectors in which LDC's have a concrete interest in supplying services, especially through the temporary movement of natural persons. Many developing countries have emphasized in GATS negotiations the importance of liberalization of Mode 4, but few, if any, have articulated with sufficient clarity and specificity the actual sectors and sub-sectors where they have or will have capacity and comparative advantage. The challenging part of this exercise was the mapping of the most pertinent regulatory measures in key selected markets that restrict entry and temporary stay of natural persons supplying services.

To prepare for future resumption of GATS negotiations on the issue of Mode 4, LDC's would benefit from developing a stronger substantive basis for the preferential market access they seek under the Special Modalities for LDC's. The output from this exercise will hopefully also contribute to the ongoing negotiations on trade agreements between the developed and least developed countries, including the EPAs.

The interventions by key experts will be followed by a discussion with participants – see programme below.

Given that there is limited seating, we would highly appreciate if you could kindly confirm your intention to participate by email to Sheila Sabune ([ssabune@ictsd.ch](mailto:ssabune@ictsd.ch)) or Gloria Carrion ([gcarrion@ictsd.ch](mailto:gcarrion@ictsd.ch)) or by fax (at 41 22 917 80 93).

We hope you will find the presentations lively and contribute with your experience and expertise during the open discussion that ensues.

Yours faithfully,



Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz  
Chief Executive

For more information about our Services Programme, as well as the Competitiveness and Development Programme please visit our website at <http://ictsd.net/programmes/>

## Tentative Programme

**9h00 Introductory Remarks**

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz  
*ICTSD Chief Executive*

**9h15 Advancing services export interests of Least Developed Countries: Toward GATS commitments on the temporary movement of natural persons for the supply of low-skilled and semi-skilled services**

Daniel Crosby  
*Partner*  
*Budin and Associates*

**9h45 Facilitating Temporary labour mobility in African LDC's: Addressing Mode 4 related Supply-side constraints**

Sabrina Varma  
*Consultant*  
*Canberra, Australia*

**10h15 'Ensuring Temporariness: Mechanisms to Incentivise return Migration in the Context of GATS Mode 4 and Least Developed Country Interests'**

David Zafar Ahmed  
*Former Programme Assistant*  
*Global Economic Governance Issues*  
*QUNO*

**'45-11h Cafe & Croissants**

***Commentators***

**11h30** Ambassador Lumbanga  
*LDC coordinator*  
*Permanent Mission of Tanzania*

**11h45** Ambassador Batacharya  
*Permanent Representative*  
*Permanent Mission of Bangladesh*

**12h00** Joy Kategekwa  
*Policy Adviser, Trade and Investment*  
*OXFAM*

**12h15** Falou Samb  
*Senior Trade Policy Analyst*  
*CSEND*

**12h30 Open discussion**

**1h-2h Light Lunch & Refreshments**