



New Short course

Understanding International Trade Agreements

22-24 July 2019, Cape Town, South Africa

The objective is to provide trade officials and private sector stakeholders with basic skills and background information on how International Trade Agreements are negotiated and implemented, and how to read the texts of these agreements. We will use the *African Continental Free Trade Agreement* as a case study.

International trade agreements are legal instruments which apply between states. They need domestic follow-up action to ensure they are correctly implemented. Disputes between the state parties about the implementation and interpretation of international agreements (also known as *treaties*) are in principle justiciable; before international dispute settlement mechanisms. Since private firms are, as a rule, the traders, investors, producers and service providers, their rights need protection too.

This course will cover the following:

- What are International Agreements? How are they negotiated and adopted?
- Who are the Parties to such agreements?
- What do International Trade Agreements aim to achieve? How are they implemented?
- How to read the text of an international trade agreement providing for liberalising trade in goods
- How to read the text of an international trade agreement providing for liberalising trade in services
- What are regional integration agreements about?

- What happens to existing trade liberalisation obligations once a state becomes a party to a new trade agreement?
- Where does one find the texts of trade agreements binding a particular state?
- Where does one find the domestic legal instruments designed to implement trade agreements?
- What is the relationship between trade agreements and the law of the land?
- Could private parties litigate under international trade agreements?

Basic materials and examples of relevant legal texts will be provided and be discussed. We will use the *African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement* as a case study. Practical exercises and simulations will be included.

Who should attend?

This course is designed for participants involved in the implementation of trade agreements or required to understand them as part of their own work – both from government and non-state organisations. Participation does not require formal legal training in this specialised field.

Course fee?

ZAR 5 000

The course will take place at the Newlands Sun Hotel, Cape Town. tralac has negotiated a preferential accommodation rate (successful applicants will be eligible for the preferential room rate). Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements and costs. A small number of scholarships are available.

Number of participants

We will accept maximum 25 participants.

Applying for the course

If you are interested to take the course, please send a video (*max one minute*) via WhatsApp to +27 835270871. The video should include a brief introduction (your name, organizational affiliation and current work profile), and why you want to take this course. If you are applying for a scholarship, please motivate.

*Deadline for video applications: 3 June 2019 You will be informed of the outcome of the selection **process** by 7 June 2019.*