

# **tralac Services Training Workshop**

## **Trade in Services Regulatory Reform in COMESA**

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# Regional Trade in Services Programme

- Development of National GATS templates
- Assessment of service sectors
- Building capacity in 18 participating countries (comprising 16 ESA plus Swaziland and Egypt)
- Implemented with technical support of World Bank, UNCTAD, OECD, etc and co-funded by the DFID under the RTFP and EU under the RIP

# Objectives of TiS Assessment

- Identification of priorities and develop programme for liberalisation of services at national, regional and international levels
- Provide information and assist ESA formulate positions and strategies for EPA negotiations
- Provide information and assist WTO members develop positions and strategies for negotiations under WTO

# Sectoral Coverage: 10 service sectors

- Financial – banking, insurance and securities
- Business – other business, computer related and professional services
- Communications – postal, courier, audio visual and telecommunications
- Construction & related engineering
- Distribution

# Sectoral Coverage cont.

- Health
- Tourism
- Transport - road, rail, inland waterways, maritime, air and services related to all modes of transport
- Education

# National GATS Templates: State of Liberalisation

- 1. Policy environment:** Conditions for competition in each service sector
  - restrictions on entry;
  - ownership restrictions – private, foreign;

# National GATS Templates State of Liberalisation cont.

## **2. Regulatory environment:**

- Domestic regulatory environment
  - measures to ensure access to networks,
  - measures to achieve social objectives e.g. universal access
  - Policies affecting international trade and investment in services
- Characteristics of regulator

# National GATS Templates State of Liberalisation cont.

## **3. Market structure:**

- No. of firms
- Market shares
- Ownership patterns

## **4. Sector performance**

- Pricing
- Quality
- Employment
- Investment



# GATS Templates: Categorisation of

- Measures affecting TiS by mode of supply, (with Mode 4 treated horizontally)
- Measures limiting market access
- Measures limiting national treatment
- Above measures identified as being horizontal
- Domestic regulations



# What has COMESA Achieved?

- GATS templates:
  - National templates prepared for 17 countries
  - Data from templates compiled into a computerised database which is 90% complete
  - Capacity building – an average of 4 experts per country trained and now proficient in subject matter

# COMESA Achievements cont.

- National Sectoral Assessment inventories 80% complete
- At least 10 services experts trained per country, 1 for each service sector
- Regional Services Liberalisation Matrix dev.
- Regional Services Liberalisation Strategy dev.
- Regional Services Regulatory Matrix dev.

# COMESA Achievements cont.

- Draft Regional Framework Agreement for liberalisation of TiS developed and under discussion in COMESA structures – will ultimately form basis for FTA on Services in COMESA
- Institutional frameworks that coordinate and spearhead TiS work at national and regional levels established, capacitated and functional