

National Trade Policy Development: The case of Mauritius

A Presentation by
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The Process

- Long history of Trade Policy Formulation and commercial diplomacy
- However, policy-making framework was not formal and organised
- Setting up of the Trade Policy Unit (TPU) in 1996
- No formal framework
- Consultative & collaborative approach
- Stakeholders are fairly treated but
 - some are more powerful
 - SMEs
 - Limited participation
 - Lack of structure
 - Limited capacity
- Commitment and participation

Trade Policy

- Trade policies in Mauritius are an integral part of economic policies
- From partial to complete openness
- Actively engaged in international trade negotiations and economic diplomacy
 - participate in the multilateral trading system and in various economic groupings and trade arrangements
- Decreasing state intervention (cement, ...)
- Reform and Modernisation of Customs
- Competition Commission

Key Issues

- Economic indicators
- Duty-free island?
 - Trade liberalisation - ↓ customs duty
 - How to reconcile with RTAs?
 - Local industries / industrial policy
- Several NTBs
- Increasing importance of services sector
- Characteristic of a SIDS
 - Expects that WTO addresses its concerns