

## Technical Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics: *Focusing on goods traded under the preferential trade agreements*

26 February to 3 March 2018  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva

### Annotated Agenda

#### Monday 26 February

Time	Agenda item	Who	Chair
8.30 - 9.00	Registration of participants	PIFS	
9.00 – 9.10	Prayer	OCO Sec	
9.10 – 9.30	Opening statements	PIFS OCO Sec MSG Sec SPC	
9.30 – 9.40	Confirmation of Agenda	SPC	
<b>SESSION 1:</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES</b>		
9.40 – 10.00	Purpose of the workshop and Expected outcomes <i>The presentation will focus on the issue in compiling data on goods traded under preferential trade agreements and the need to acquire knowledge/skills to be able to do that after this workshop. The session will run through the Official Statistics Tables that need to be completed by all Pacific Island countries.</i>	SPC	SPC
10.00 – 10.30	Tea Break		
10.30 – 11.30	Participants: Introduction and expectation from the workshop <i>The objective of this session is for participants to introduce themselves and in a few words say what their expectations are from the workshop.</i>	All	
<b>SESSION 2:</b>	<b>PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS</b>		
11.30 – 12.30	Preferential Trade Agreements <i>The presentations will focus on the range of preferential trade agreements that are currently in force, or have been signed, in the region and how the preferences are accorded for the various agreements. These include WTO, SPARTECA, PACER Plus, PICTA, MSG TA, MTC, Bilateral Trade Agreements, etc.</i> <i>The presentations will focus on each of the agreements highlighting the qualification criteria and the levels of preferences available to the private sector.</i>	PIFS/ MSG Sec	PIFS
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break		
1.30 – 2.30	Preferential Trade Agreements cont...		

SPC Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional offices : Suva, Fiji Islands, and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.  
Country office: Honiara, Solomon Islands.

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Siège de la CPS : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Îles Fidji) et Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie). Bureau national de coordination : Honiara (Îles Salomon).  
Site Web : [www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int) Courriel : [spc@spc.int](mailto:spc@spc.int)

Time	Agenda item	Who	Chair
2.30 – 3.30	<p>Preferential Trade Agreements Group Work</p> <p><i>The Group Work will focus on interpreting the provisions of the agreement to determine how different products may be given different preferential treatment depending on the type of accompanying documents presented at the border. The examples to be used will be based on sample intra-regional transactions</i></p>	Participants – facilitated by PIFS/ MSG Sec / OCO Sec	
3.30 – 4.00	Tea Break		
4.00 – 5.00	<p>Wrap up session on Preferential Trade Agreements</p> <p><i>The Objective of this session is to highlight how the preferential trade transactions can be included in the relevant Statistical reports, and the role of various agencies such as Trade Department, Customs Department, Customs Brokers, Importers/Exporters, etc.</i></p>	PIFS/ MSG Sec / OCO Sec/SPC	MSG

## Tuesday 27 February

Time	Agenda item	Who	Chair
9.00 – 9.10	Day 1 Reflection0	SPC	SPC
9.10 – 10.00	ABS video conference		
10.00 – 10.30	Tea Break		
10.30 – 11.30	<p>Private Sector perspectives on Preferential Trade Agreements</p> <p><i>The presentation will focus on how the Private Sector has been using the preferential trade agreements, and where the information gaps are. It will also highlight what needs to be done to ensure there is more effective intra-regional trade, and how aspect such as cumulation rules can be supported for increased value addition.</i></p>	PIFS	PIFS
11.30 – 12.30	<p>Has the Private Sector been using the Preferential Trade Agreements?</p> <p><i>The presentation will hear from the Pacific private sector on how it has used the PTAs for its benefit. It will also cover what have been fundamental challenges for Pacific businesses associated to actual implementation and where can there be greater dialogue with private sector to address these.</i></p>	PIPSO	
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break		
<b>SESSION 3:</b>	<b>IDENTIFYING GOODS TRADED UNDER THE PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS</b>		
1.30 pm – 3.30	<p>Identifying Preferential Trade Agreement Commodities</p> <p><i>The presentation will focus on the importance of a harmonized approach to the classification of goods (Harmonised System) in the implementation of Trade Agreements. The presentation will discuss the HS 2017 implementation work that the OCO is coordinating and in particular the Pacific Harmonised Commodity and Description &amp; Coding System (PACHS 17). The PACHS is an eight (8) digit nomenclature, consisting of the six (6) of the 2017 WCO HS Code with the addition of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> digits subheadings as the “Regional Subheading” comprising of key regional tradeable products.</i></p>	OCO	OCO
3.30 – 4.00	Tea Break		

4.00 – 5.00	<p>Trade Statistics and Customs IT Systems</p> <p><i>ASYCUDA is a computerised customs management system that handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit, and suspense procedures. ASYCUDA generates trade data that can be used for statistical economic analysis.</i></p> <p><i>The participants will receive presentation from ASYCUDA on how the system can be used to generate statistics on goods traded under the different trade Agreements.</i></p> <p><i>There will also be short presentations by Customs Administrations on procedures currently in use for identifying goods subject to preferential trade agreements entering/leaving their country.</i></p>	ASYCUDA – TBC PC Trade Custom Administrations	
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### Wednesday 28 February

Time	Agenda item	Who	Chair
9.00 – 9.10	<b>Day 2 Reflection</b>	SPC	SPC
9.10 – 10.00	Trade Statistics and Customs IT Systems cont..		OCO
10.00 – 10.30	Tea Break		
10.30 – 11.30	Trade Statistics and Customs IT Systems cont..		
<b>SESSION 4:</b>	<b>WHAT DO THE NUMBERS SAY?</b>		
11.30 – 12.30	What do the numbers say?	SPC PFTAC - TBC PIFS	SPC
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break		
<b>SESSION 5:</b>	<b>COMPILATION OF DATA ON GOODS TRADED UNDER MSG</b>		
1.30 pm – 3.30	Compilation of data on goods traded under MSG		
	<b>Split-up in 4 Groups for Hands-on compilation work</b>		
	Group PNG	Led by PIFS	
	Group Solomon	Led by OCO	
	Group Fiji	Led by SPC	
	Group Vanuatu	Led by MSG	
3.30 – 4.00	Tea Break		
4.00 – 5.00	Compilation of data on goods traded under MSG cont..		

### Thursday 1 March

Time	Agenda item	Who	Chair
9.00 – 9.10	<b>Day 3 Reflection</b>	SPC	SPC
9.10 – 5.00 pm	Compilation of data on goods traded under MSG cont..		
10.00 – 10.30	Tea Break		
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break		
3.30 – 4.00	Tea Break		

## Friday 2 March

Time	Agenda item	Who	Chair
9.00 – 10.00	<b>Day 4 Reflection</b>	SPC	SPC
9.10 – 10.00	Compilation of data on goods traded under MSG cont..		
10.00 – 10.30	Tea Break		
10.30 – 11.30	Presentation of results	Group Leaders	SPC
11.30 – 12.30	Hands-on compilation work: issues encountered and how they can be solved	PIFS, MSG, OCO, SPC	SPC
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break		
<b>SESSION 6:</b>	<b>WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING</b>		
1.30 – 2.00	Way forward	PIFS, MSG, OCO, SPC	SPC
2.00 – 3.00	Closing remarks Award of certificates/Closing	PIFS, MSG, OCO, SPC	
3.00	Tea		