



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

Excelling Together for the People of the Pacific

WAY FORWARD

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

26 Feb-2 March 2018

Venue: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva

Preferential Trade Agreements & Statistics

Recommendation 1: Regional Capacity Building-PTAs, Tariffs and Statistics (PIFS/OCO/SPC)

- Trade Policy Tools/Measures in WTO/PTAs (Trade in Goods, Services, Investment and Labor Mobility)
- WTO/PTAs
 1. How are products accorded preferential treatment/Qualification Criteria under PTAs?
 - WTO/International Trade Treaties on Goods
 - Trade in Goods, Schedule of Commitments on Tariffs, Exemptions
 - Rules of Origin Criteria, Verification Procedures, Declaration of Origin Requirements
 - Customs Procedures, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
 - **Proposal: Establishment of FTA Tariff Data Tool** with rates FTA partners have committed to implementing and maintaining;
 - An online resource to help PTA users determine tariff, or tax at the border, that certain foreign countries will collect when your product crosses into their country
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of FTAs**
 2. Harmonised Approach to Classification of Goods to enable identification of PTA Commodities
 - Implementation of HS2017 & transposition of Market Access Offers
 - Simplifying HS code terminology - can be somewhat arcane

Compilation of High Quality PTA Data

Recommendations:

- Simultaneous capture of all PTA in MTIS & Trade in Value Added Stats
- Important Role of Customs Administration: Fielding Quantity Data (On-Time data/Reference Guide)
- Strengthening Interagency Collaboration is key (Customs & Stats)
- 'Business-Friendly' Data for Ease of Reference by the Private Sector
- 'Ease of Access to'/'Raising Awareness' on PTAs-National Data
- Customs/Stats Awareness of FPR Priority on Fisheries and to capture:
 - Fish Trade PTA Data (EEZ, High Seas, FIC Flagged Vessels)
 - Fisheries, Statistics and Customs to collaborate in capturing adequate information on fisheries catch landed in FICS and when importing/exporting
 - Effectively capturing exports and imports data - customs procedures/manifests under PTAS

Private Sector Perspective on PTAs

Recommendations (PIFS/PIPSO/SPC/OCO):

- Establishment of Regional PTA Database
 - Simplified Information Publicly Available on PTAs,
 - More Awareness Raising (Private Sector/Customs) focusing in particular on ROO.
- Balance Interest of the Various Stakeholders, noting ultimate goal of PTAs contributing to economic growth and sustainable development;
- Set Clear Pathways to Enhance Effectiveness of RTAs for private sector
- Regional Solutions for Common Challenges Facing the Private Sector: Trade Logistics, Infrastructure, Trade Financing and Border Security Concerns
- Integrity of Statistics and Governance
- Future prospects for consolidating Pacific FTA