



Support Measures Portal for
Least Developed Countries



Support Measures Portal for LDCs

www.un.org/ldcportal

New York, 25 June 2015



Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries



Overview

1. Introduction to the portal
2. Structure of the portal
3. How to use the portal?
4. Questions and remarks



Support Measures Portal for
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1. Introduction to the portal



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Why do we need an LDC-portal?

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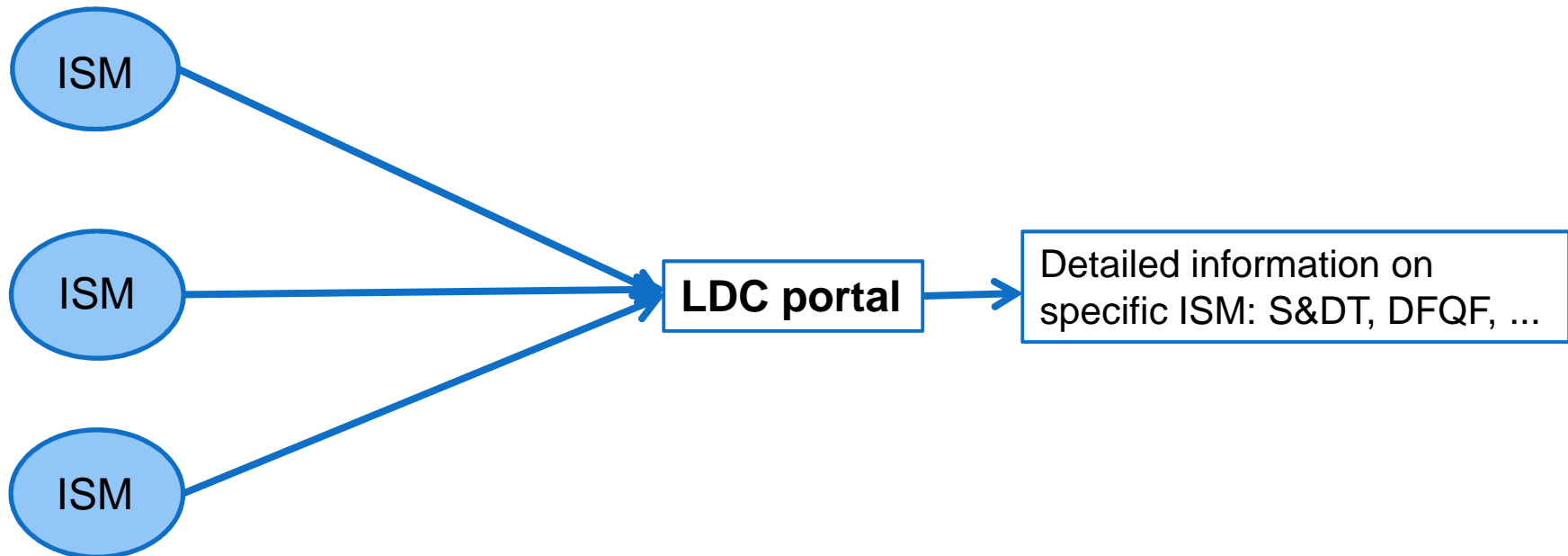
International Support Measures (ISM)

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Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries





Purpose of the Portal

- Give LDCs easy access to **information** on ISMs
 - Stay **up-to-date** (measures, news, important figures, ...)
 - Find information on **specific ISMs**
 - Increase **usage** of ISMs
 - Increase **knowledge** in trade-related issues relevant for LDCs



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2. Structure of the portal

Structure of the portal

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3. How to use the portal?



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- Be informed
- Search for specific information
- Start a discussion or add a comment



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- Be informed
 - New ISM, news,....
 - Stay informed

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Norway provides DFQF market access for imports from LDCs under its GSP scheme. The first Norwegian GSP scheme came into place in 1971, whereas the latest renewal dates 1 January 2013. DFQF for LDCs with full product coverage was introduced on 1 July 2002. In addition to LDCs, low-income countries with a population of less than 75 million are also granted DFQF access. Utilization by LDCs In 2012, Norway's imports from LDCs accounted for \$ 576 million. All imports are eligible for...

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Preferential Market Access: New Zealand GSP

New Zealand introduced its DFQF scheme for LDCs in July 2001. The scheme is part of New Zealand's GSP, which first came into force on 1 January 2001. Since its inception in 2001, all tariff lines are included in the scheme. The rules of origin for LDCs are more liberal than for various other preferential trading partners. Utilization by LDCs In 2013, total imports from LDCs were US\$ 99 million. All LDC imports are exempted from tariffs and quotas, either via MNF or via the LDC...

10/3/12

Preferential Market Access - Canada GSP

The Canadian Market Access Initiative for LDCs came into force on January 1, 2003. With few specific exclusions, all goods imported into Canada determined to be originating in an LDC are granted duty-free status. Certain supply-managed agricultural products are excluded from duty-free and quota-free entitlement. Dairy, poultry and egg products originating in an LDC are not entitled to duty-free status. Utilization by LDCs In 2013, Canada imported for \$ 3,993 million...

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Preferential Market Access- Australia GSP

Australia provides for DFQF market access for imports from LDCs under its GSP scheme. The first Australian GSP scheme came into place in 1974. The DFQF scheme for LDCs became effective on 1 July 2003. All products are covered by the scheme. Utilization by LDCs In 2013, Australia's imports from LDCs accounted for \$818 million. In that year, at least 93 per cent of imports from LDCs entered Australia duty free, either under MFN (34 per cent) or under the LDC specific preferential...

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Utilization by LDCs

In 2012, Norway's imports from LDCs accounted for \$ 576 million.

All imports are eligible for DFQF market access, either via the GSP or the MFN import scheme. In order to access the DFQF benefits, eligible countries have to comply with certain formalities such as official notifications. Therefore, 21 LDCs do not receive LDC treatment.

In 2011, 92 per cent of the LDC imports entered the Norwegian market duty free. 8 per cent was subjected to taxes, while potentially eligible for duty free market access. These numbers refer to imports from LDCs that have complied with the formalities of the Norwegian GSP system.

Available Smooth Transition Procedures

At the latest renewal of its GSP scheme, Norway introduced a "GSP plus" scheme with the intention, among others, to facilitate the graduation of countries no longer eligible to the DFQF scheme. GSP plus countries receive duty free access for all industrial goods and, when compared to ordinary GSP beneficiaries, GSP-plus countries receive higher preferences on a number of agricultural goods. All lower middle-income countries with population less than 75 million, as well as low-income countries with population exceeding 75 million, are eligible for GSP-plus benefits.

Chile Verde, which graduated from the LDC category in 2007, is currently a GSP-plus beneficiary, whereas Maldives (graduated in 2011) continues to receive LDC treatment.

Resources

- GSP of Norway
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs - GSP
- Guide to GSP - Norway

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This is how you
obtain preferential
treatment

GSP - Generalized System of Preference

Countries that are a part of the Norwegian GSP-system

Approved Exporters

Export of fish and crustaceans

GSP - Generalized System of Preference

The Norwegian GSP-scheme provides exporters from developing countries duty relief when exporting goods to Norway. On this site you can find out if your products qualify for duty free import or reduced duty rates.

The GSP-scheme has been implemented for about 90 countries and territories, of which 35 are ranked among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). LDCs benefit from more preferential treatment than other countries included in the system, the so-called GSP+ or ordinary GSP-countries.

- Find out if your country has implemented the GSP-scheme

Note: in order for a product to be granted preferential tariff rates, certain standards must be met.

- Read about the conditions for preferential treatment

These goods are included in the system

All goods exported from an LDC are duty free when imported into Norway. GSP+ will receive a better offer than the ordinary GSP-countries. You will get duty free access for goods under Chapters 61-63, as well as 50 per cent and 100 per cent duty free access for certain agricultural goods.

For the other developing countries included in the system (ordinary GSP-countries), goods sorting under Chapters 25-97 in the Norwegian Customs Tariff are duty free, with the exception of certain textiles in Chapters 61-63. For agricultural products, regular duty rates are reduced by 10 to 100 per cent. Below you can find out which goods are included in the system and the tariff preference they are granted.

 [List 1 - 100 per cent reduction](#) (192 kB)

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China supports LDC accession to the WTO

5/11/15 2:42 PM

In the context of the WTO's LDCs and Accession Programme, also called the China programme, the Chinese government has made the commitment to contribute US\$ 500,000 for 2015, to assist LDCs to accede to the WTO.

The China programme is an Aid for Trade initiative supporting LDCs' integration in the world economy and supports several WTO-related activities for LDCs such as WTO accession internships, WTO accession round table meetings, LDC participation in WTO meetings, South-South dialogue on LDCs and development and LDCs' trade policy review follow-up workshops. The programme was initiated in 2011.

Source:

WTO website

By Lotte Drieghe | 0 Comments | wto wto accession china china programme

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During the Asian-African Conference which took place this week in Indonesia, the president of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping, announced that China will grant LDCs duty free market access for 97 per cent of the tariff lines within the year. It should be noted, that this beneficial market access scheme will apply only for imports from LDCs that have diplomatic relations with China.



In 2014, China's imports from LDCs amounted to \$75,665 million and accounted for 3.86 per cent of the country's imports. These numbers also include imports from LDCs that do not have diplomatic relations with China.

Sources:

The standard
Comtrade database, 27 May 2015

By Lotte Drieghe | 544 Views, 0 Comments | dfqf china

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The Least Developed Countries are defined as low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. The current list of LDCs includes 49 countries; 33 in Africa, 14 in Asia and the Pacific and 1 in Latin America. They comprise more than 880 million people (about 12 per cent of world population), but account for less than 2 percent of world GDP and about 1 percent of global trade in goods.

The category of LDCs was officially established in 1971 by the UN General Assembly to attract special international support for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the UN family. Membership of category is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which advises the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on which low-income countries should be added to the list and those that could be graduated from the list. In this regard, the CDP has developed a set of formal criteria to identify countries as least developed.

In its most recent effort to support the LDCs, the United Nations adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2011. The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) charts out the international community's vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs for the next decade with a strong focus on developing their productive capacities. The IPoA specifically aims to enable half of the LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.

LDC-specific international support measures can assist these countries to meet the targets

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- The Gambia
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Institutional capacity building for accessing trade- related measures in Lesotho

Lesotho is being approached to participate as a pilot country in the UN DESA project "Capacity building for removing constraints in utilizing trade-related international support measures for LDCsLeast Developed Countries".

Upon receiving the country's expression of interest to participate, our objective is to provide project information on these pages for project consultants, collaborating agencies, donors and government officials about the status of the project. This area of the Portal will also give access to related documentation and an opportunity to generate online discussions among those involved in the project.

Experts on Lesotho

There is currently no additional information available.

Trade-related ISMs

Key trade-related support measures for Lesotho

Project activities are focussing on support measures which are already being used, or have the potential of being used to address limitations faced by producers of priority exporter. Subsequently, institutional constraints in using these measures will be identified. Preliminary list of...

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Improving Access to Support Measures

This Portal gives users access to information about special international support measures (ISMs) adopted by the international development community for countries included in the LDC category. ISMs are meant to assist LDCs in confronting their special development challenges and in achieving progress towards graduation from the category. The measures can be grouped into 3 broad areas of assistance:



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GATS: Increasing LDC participation through negotiated specific commitments (Art. IV:1)

The GATS provides that special priority shall be given to the LDC Members in the implementation of Article IV: 1 & 2. (Article IV: 3).

Article IV:1 states that the increasing participation of developing countries in world trade in services shall be facilitated through negotiated specific commitments relating to: (a) the strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency and competitiveness, inter alia through access to technology on a commercial basis; (b) the improvement of their access to distribution channels and information networks; and (c) the liberalization of market access in sectors and modes of supply of export interest to them.



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There is currently no additional information available.

In 2001, the Council for Trade in Services adopted S/L/93 "Guidelines and Procedures for the Negotiations on Trade in Services", which laid out general provisions for negotiations on trade in services. Subsequently, "Modalities for Special Treatment for Least Developed Country Members in the Negotiations on Trade in Services" (TN/S/13) was adopted in September 2003. Among other considerations, it indicates that Members shall exercise restraint in seeking commitments from LDCs; that LDCs shall be granted greater flexibilities for opening up fewer service sub-sectors, including that LDCs may not be expected to offer full national treatment. It further states that WTO Members shall provide LDCs with effective market access in sectors and modes of supply of export interest of LDCs. Additionally, Members shall take measures to increase LDC participation in trade in services through training, capacity building and intergovernmental cooperation programmes, among others. It also specifies the principles for the provision of technical assistance and capacity building for LDCs with respect to trade in services, including for the conclusion of national assessment of trade in services.

Available Smooth Transition Procedures:

--

Utilization by LDCs

The WTO Secretariat has not been notified of any specific commitments that have been made pursuant to Article IV:1.

Resources:

- Implementation of special and differential treatment provisions in WTO Agreements and Decisions
- Special and Differential Treatment Provisions in WTO Agreements and Decisions - Note by the Secretariat
- The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS): objectives, coverage and disciplines

Area	Trade
Mandatory for	Developing countries
Mandatory for	LDCs
Objective	Special and differential treatment not elsewhere specified
Scope	LDCs only
Topic	Services

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Smooth transition under Norway's GSP

Pedro Manuel Aragon
Rank: New Member
Posts: 1
Join Date: 8/16/12
6/27/13 4:42 PM

This is important information. However, there is something it is not clear to me. How much longer will Maldives be receiving LDC treatment under Norway's scheme. Additionally, I would like to have another clarification: once a LDC graduates, would it go automatically from the DFQF scheme to the GSP-plus scheme?
Thank you!

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Matthias
Rank: New Member
Posts: 3
Join Date: 6/27/12
6/28/13 9:56 AM

RE: Smooth transition under Norway's GSP

Thank you very much for the question. The revised GSP scheme of Norway stipulates that a country graduates if it is placed in a higher income group in two successive reviews of the OECD-DAC list of aid recipients. Maldives is listed as upper middle income country as of 2011, before it was a LDC. The next OECD review is scheduled for 2014, so Maldives should graduate from Norway's DFQF on 1 January 2015.

Because Maldives 'skipped' lower middle income status in the OECD-DAC, it appears they will not have access to the GSP-plus scheme, but only to the ordinary GSP scheme. It could be argued that this contradicts the intention of the new GSP plus category, which has the aim of softening the transition of graduating countries. This problem is likely to occur for other LDCs that are graduating from the category.

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On 2 February 2013, Lao People's Democratic Republic became the latest LDC to join the WTO. Negotiations lasted for 15 years and required Laos to make substantial changes in its legal and regulatory framework as well as to introduce new legislation. The working party on the country's accession involved 66 members of the WTO. During the negotiations, Laos received technical...

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The Canadian Government announced major changes to its General Preferential Tariff, its GSP scheme for all developing countries. Seventy-two countries, including major trading nations such as Brazil, China, India and the Republic of Korea will be excluded from the scheme from 1 January 2015. These are countries that have either achieved upper middle or high income status according to the World...

LDCs and trade in services



LDCs continue to play a marginal role in global trade in services flows, but their market share is increasing. In 2011, the LDC market share in commercial services stood at 1.05 %, only slightly below their share in merchandise trade of 1.14 %. However, whereas the trade balance of LDCs as a group in merchandise trade is approximately zero and even had a small surplus in 2011, LDCs are net...

Spotlight summary: EIF success stories - lessons learned



In October and November 2012, Spotlight discussions on the Portal focused on how positive experiences can be replicated by LDCs. The discussions highlight some of the successes and lessons learned from EIF activities in LDCs such as the Gambia, Lesotho, Mali, Nepal and Uganda. One message coming out of the discussions is that the implementation of the integrated framework is facilitated by...

Bangladesh' exports to Canada: the importance of flexible rules of origin*



The Canadian GSP scheme for the LDCs was revised in 2002 when almost all tradable items were made eligible for duty-free (and quota-free) treatment. Four excluded items were eggs, poultry, dairy and refined sugar, none of which is exported by Bangladesh. Most of Bangladesh's exports to Canada (89.3 per cent in FY2010) are ready made garments (RMG). Average Canadian tariffs on apparel items are...

EIF and its Tiers



All LDCs that became beneficiaries of the Integrated Framework (IF), prior to the IF enhancement, automatically became beneficiaries of the Enhanced IF (EIF). New LDC entrants need to be qualified as EIF beneficiaries. Two main financing mechanisms are envisaged: Tier 1 aims at supporting greater trade capacity and increased policy ownership. It provides financial...

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make commitments on agriculture as per the Agreement on Agriculture). This is below the 50 per cent suggested by the 2012 guidelines and the 78.8 per cent average of the 30 original LDC members, although applied tariffs are much lower at 15.3 per cent. For non-agricultural market access, Lao committed to binding all tariff lines at an average rate of 18.7 per cent, which compares to a recommendation of average bound tariffs of 35 per cent covering 95 per cent of non-agricultural products. Meanwhile, the original LDC members have bound 48.8 per cent of their tariff lines at an average of 44.4 per cent (applied rates are however much lower at 11.9 per cent).

Lower bound tariffs may reduce policy options for the country in the future. At the same time, Lao insisted on reserving rights to LDC flexibilities existing in the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures regarding the use of export subsidies (Article 27.2), while new legislation adopted by the country abolished the use of incentives and subsidies contingent on local content which are not permissible under the ASCM. Laos, however, seemed to have given up the LDC flexibility of using TRIMS-incompatible measures (subject to notification and approval by the WTO) as provided by Annex F of the Declaration of Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference (extension of transition period for the phasing out of incompatible measures as well as possibility of introduction of new measures) and would apply the TRIMS Agreement from the date of accession without recourse to any transitional period. The country also indicated that, with the provision of capacity building and technical assistance, TRIPS could be fully implemented by 31 December 2016. Yet, it also stressed it would make use of "the special and differential treatment provisions provided for under the TRIPS Agreement and WTO Ministerial Declarations" for LDCs. Currently, LDCs are to comply only with articles 3, 4 and 5 of the agreement. The extension of such flexibility –which is to expire on 30 June 2013– is currently under negotiation at the WTO.

Source: Report of Working Party on the accession of Lao PDR to the WTO

[i] No longer a LDC

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