



NOTIFICATION

Trade policy dialogue:

Trade preferences outlook 2024: Towards new market access cooperation?

30 January 2025, 9.30–11 a.m. (CET)

Online

DITC/Misc/2025/3
(25/20gd)

UN Trade and Development is pleased to invite permanent missions of member States in Geneva to a trade policy dialogue on “Trade preferences outlook 2024: Towards new market access cooperation?”, jointly organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The event will be held in English on 30 January 2025 from 9.30 to 11 a.m.

Since the 1970s, non-reciprocal trade preferences have supported export growth and diversification in developing countries. Today, these preferences stand at a crossroads. UN Trade and Development, in *Trade Preferences Outlook 2024*, demonstrates how the effectiveness of preferential tariffs has diminished as a tool to foster exports, as most-favoured nation tariffs have decreased, free trade agreements have proliferated and non-tariff measures have become more prevalent. Drawing on the findings in the report and in view of the fact that some of the least developed countries in Asia are among the major beneficiaries of trade preference schemes, the trade policy dialogue will examine the stakes related to trade preferences for economies in the region and the future actions necessary to enhance their development impact, including by extending market access cooperation beyond tariffs.

Panel discussions will address whether the current structure of non-reciprocal tariff preferences is fit to respond to market access challenges faced by developing countries and will elaborate on possible alternative approaches to trade preferences in order for beneficiary countries to be able to achieve inclusive and sustainable development goals through trade.

Registration should be completed online at [Trade policy dialogue](#). Further information is available at [Twelfth trade policy dialogue](#).

Requests for further information should be addressed to Mr. Taisuke Ito and Ms. Ebru Gokce Dessemond, Trading Systems, Services and Creative Economy Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, email: Taisuke.Ito@unctad.org and Ebru.Gokce@unctad.org.

(signed)

Luz Maria de la Mora

Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities
27 January 2025

