To: Forum Island Countries (FICs)
Date: 13 June 2018
From: Officer in Charge, PIF Permanent Delegation to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations in Geneva
Subject: PIF-Geneva Update 2/2018

Please find attached, for your records, an update on Trade Negotiations and Aid-for-Trade activities undertaken by the Pacific Islands Forum – Geneva Office (PIF-Geneva) in March-April 2018.

2. For further clarifications or follow-up on Trade Negotiations, please contact Mr. Alex Kerangpuna, Trade Policy Officer, on alex.kerangpuna@pifs-geneva.ch

3. For further clarifications or follow-up on Aid-for-Trade, please contact Mr. Andrea Giacomelli, Trade Policy and Aid-for-Trade Adviser on andrea.giacomelli@pifs-geneva.ch

Mere FALEMAKA
Ambassador
PIF Permanent Delegation to the United Nations,
World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations in Geneva
1. BACKGROUND

The Pacific Islands Forum Geneva Office (PIF-GVA) includes two sections: Trade Negotiations, and Aid-for-Trade (AfT). The Trade Negotiations Section provides strategic policy and technical advice to Forum Islands Countries (FICs) which are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and coordinates their participation in multilateral negotiations. The AfT Section assists FICs to make a better use of AfT opportunities provided by Geneva and Europe-based organisations and promotes their trade-related interests and needs.

2. TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

During the months of March and April, WTO Members while on a reflections mode, met in different negotiating groups to evaluate work in 2017 and discuss new approaches on the 2018-2019 work. These discussions centred on the outcomes and lessons from the Eleventh Ministerial Conferences Decision (MC11) and preparations for the MC12 to be held in 2019. At MC11, the main decision was the continuation of the negotiations on fisheries subsidies with a view to concluding an agreement in 2019, by the time of the MC12. This negotiation must provide for appropriate special and differential treatment for developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). In addition, there were also regular committee meetings and trade-related meetings held in these two months.

Technical advice and briefs - Circulars

The PIF-GVA continued to disseminate information to the Pacific WTO Members on various meetings including co-ordinating their positions.

The Office assisted Members to actively participate in the fisheries subsidies discussion by providing technical advice on the elements of the two textual proposals on fisheries subsidies.

Six Circulars on the key meetings (General Council, Trade Negotiations Committee, Fisheries Subsidies, Agriculture, Trade and Development, E-Commerce, and other areas) were circulated to the Pacific WTO Members. This also included technical advice requested by Pacific WTO Members or representations at bilateral level with the WTO Secretariat on specific issues.

Representation – Statements and Consultations

The PIF-Geneva Office prepared a Joint Statement for the Pacific WTO members that was delivered at the General Council meeting on 7th March 2018, and two Statements that were delivered at the Rules Negotiating Group meetings on Fisheries Subsidies in March and April respectively. Work on Fisheries subsidies is the only one that has seen progress.

It also co-ordinated the Pacific Group’s positions for consultations with the RNG Chair on the Work Program for May – July 2018. The WP aims to complete the streamlining of the two textual proposals into a consolidated text before the end of 2018 for negotiations to begin. In addition, PIF-Geneva also provided advice and co-ordinated the region’s position for input into the ACP positions on fisheries issues and on the WP.

On other areas of the Doha negotiations such as agriculture, services, and non-negotiation or new issues (e-commerce, micro, small and medium enterprises), consultations were still continuing on the issues to be prioritised. PIF-GVA will continue to monitor discussions in these areas and conduct consultations with Pacific WTO Members and with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small and vulnerable economies (SVEs) on their positions going forward.

3. AID-FOR TRADE ACTIVITIES

3.1 Networking

As of 30 April 2018, 136 Aid-for-Trade connections were included in the Office’s database.

3.2 Representation
On the 19 March 2018 the Office presented on ICT Access and Use in FICs at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva. The Office’s presentation, together with those of the other panellists, is available here.

The Office attended the formal meetings of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) on the 24 April 20181 and 25 April 20182. A short summary is included in Annex 1.

On the 26 April 2018 the Office was invited to participate to the Natural Disasters and Trade Symposium in Geneva. The Symposium discussed the nexus between natural disasters and the multilateral trading system; highlighted the trade and development impact of recent natural disasters; and outlined the trade dimension to disaster response, recovery and resilience. The Symposium introduced a new WTO’s initiative (sponsored by Australia) to analyse how trade can help countries respond to and recover from natural disasters and build resilience. The initiative’s video, including a contribution by Ambassador Mere FALEMAKA, is available on YouTube.

The Office intensified its work to structure strategic partnerships with trade-related international organisations. This period saw (1) accreditation of the PIF Geneva Office as a Permanent Delegation to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva – see also Annex 2; and (2) initial discussions to establish Memoranda of Understanding with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the United Nations Conference for Trade Development (UNCTAD).

3.3 Projects

3.3.1 Implemented

Preparations continued for the “Update on the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference” Regional Workshop, 22-26 May 2018, in Suva, Fiji. This is one of three Regional Workshops approved and funded by the WTO as part of its technical assistance and capacity building for Pacific WTO Members on WTO and international trade issues. The other two are a Regional Workshop on Agriculture, Value Chains, sanitary and phytosanitary issues; and a Short Regional WTO Trade Policy Course for middle level Officials.

3.3.2 Completed/Secured

The Office supported FICs to secure assistance worth about USD 1 million, including from: (1) TradeComII – for a regional project on Quality Infrastructure and one regional project on e-Commerce; and (2) Trade Advocacy Fund 2 (TAF2) - for regional project supporting the WTO Pacific Group on trade negotiations. Implementation of these projects is expected to start in the second half of 2018.

3.3.3 Ongoing

The Office continued its work to facilitate access to Aid-for-Trade opportunities for its members. This period saw the Office facilitating a submission by Tuvalu seeking UNCTAD’s support for an e-Trade Readiness Assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNER</th>
<th>INITIATIVE</th>
<th>IN SUPPORT OF</th>
<th>STAGE*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STDF</td>
<td>Honey industry</td>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>Formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TradeComII</td>
<td>Trade Policy and sub-regional FTAs</td>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>Formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Environment and Trade</td>
<td>All FICs</td>
<td>Formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITC</td>
<td>Institutional Strengthening</td>
<td>PIPSO</td>
<td>Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCTAD</td>
<td>e-Trade.Ready</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Identification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ‘Stage’ refers to the type of action within the project cycle that the Geneva Office is currently supporting, with: (1) Collection/Dissemination = initial engagement with partners and members to scope interest and feasibility; (2) Identification = High-level conceptualisation of possible project; (3) Formulation = detailed work on project proposals

1 3rd Session on Preferential Trade Agreements and 105th CTD Regular Session
2 82nd Session of Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
3.4. Apply! Demand-driven Aid-for-Trade facilities accepting applications

(1) TradeCom II (2) Trade Advocacy Fund II (3) Standards Trade and Development Facility (4) Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (5) Fit for Market

**Update on TradeCom II** - the TradeCom Program has started awarding projects under its second and last funding cycle. **Very few project proposals have so far been received from the Pacific region.** The TradeCom II PMU works a first-come, first-served basis. To avoid missing-out on this opportunity, interested FICs are warmly encouraged to complete and submit a [Request Form](#) to the TradeCom II program as soon as possible.

3.5. Did you know? Responses to the online Aid-for-Trade Survey

In January 2018 the Office launched a survey to assess performance of its Aid-for-Trade Section. Five countries responded. The survey is now closed, and results are presented below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1. After the establishment of an Aid-for-Trade Section at PIF-Geneva I am receiving better information on the Aid-for-Trade and Trade Policy initiatives which are ongoing at Geneva-based and Europe-based organisations</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2. After the establishment of an Aid-for-Trade Section at PIF-Geneva I am receiving more support to identify and formulate Aid-for-Trade projects and to access opportunities which are available at Geneva-based and Europe-based organisations</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3. After the establishment of an Aid-for-Trade Section PIF-Geneva I think that Forum Islands Countries (FICs) visibility in Geneva and Europe has improved</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Poor or Very Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q4. How would you rate the overall performance of the Aid-for-Trade Section of PIF-Geneva</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Useful</th>
<th>Not Useful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q5. I find the bi-monthly Aid-for-Trade Updates from the PIF Geneva Office</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 1
Background

1. The Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) serves as a focal point and forum for the consideration, discussions and coordination of development issues in the WTO. In addition to its Regular Sessions, the CTD holds dedicated sessions on Aid-for-Trade (AfT), Regional Trade Agreements (RTA), Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs), Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs), and Special and Differential Treatment (S&D). Moreover, a Subcommittee on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) sits under the CTD.

Committee on Trade and Development

2. The 3rd Dedicated Session on Preferential Trade Agreements took place on the 24 April 2018. Reference was made to the fact that there exist 5 PTAs notified under the Transparency Mechanism\(^1\) for which data/information are not yet available to allow for a Factual Presentation by the WTO Secretariat. These are:
   a. China - Duty-free treatment for LDCs – notified in 2011
   b. India - Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme for LDCs – notified in 2013
   d. Chinese Taipei - Duty-free treatment for LDCs – notified in 2011
   e. Thailand - Duty-free treatment for LDCs – notified in 2015

Further information on the status of the above PTAs is included in Annex A1-AA. The list of all PTAs is available here.

3. Immediately after the 3rd Dedicated Session on PTAs, the 105th Regular Session of the Committee for Trade and Development took place. Some highlights:
   a. The meeting confirmed disagreement on two proposals to strengthen the role of CTD as a focal point on development matters – namely WT/COMTD/W/208 and WT/COMTD/W/192
   b. The meeting discussed the issue of Notifications and Transparency Mechanism for RTAs entered into under the Enabling Clause. Questions were raised about the quality of some notifications. The meeting noted the issues preventing the preparation of Factual Presentations by the WTO Secretariat for some RTAs entered into under Enabling Clause – these can be found in Annex A1-AB.
   c. Netherlands was confirmed as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries for an additional year - Monique T.G. VAN DAALEN
   d. Ecuador was appointed as Chairperson of the CTD - Diego AULESTIA VALENCIA

4. The 82nd Session of the Sub-Committee on LDCs took place on the 25 April 2018. Some highlights:
   a. The meeting noted an increased uptake of the new template to notify preferential Rules Of Origin (ROO) for LDCs, as well as improvements of ROO regimes in a number of members to come into line with the Nairobi decision on ROO – e.g. in Norway and China.

\(^1\) [http://ptadb.wto.org/docs/pta_transparency_pta_en.pdf](http://ptadb.wto.org/docs/pta_transparency_pta_en.pdf)
b. The WTO Secretariat reported on trade performance for LDCs. The presentation by the Secretariat is included as Annex A1-AC. Merchandise export and import increased after 2 years of negative growth. The share of LDCs’ exports in 2017 increased to 0.95 percent and that of imports to 1.4 percent. Exports and imports of services also increased. The shares of exports and imports for LDCs’ services remained the same as 2016 - 0.6 and 1.4 percent respectively. Export of travel services in LDCs in 2017 was 55 percent of total services exports. Tourism is the most dynamic sector for LDCs over the past 12 years. Most of tourists come from the same region – hence Asia is benefitting more than Africa, noting that income has grown faster in the former than the latter. A joint study from Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO) and International Trade Centre (ITC) has recently been published to assist LDCs with Tourism Development.

c. The EIF reported on its financial situation. Funds committed by donors to date are USD 117 million. USD 60 million have been disbursed by donors, of which USD 30 million allocated to projects. Tier II projects on Quality Infrastructure and e-Commerce have been recently approved by the EIF Board.

d. UNIDO provided some figures on LDC and industrialization. In the last 15 years there has been some industrialization in LDCs but in no way sufficient to catch-up with developing countries. As a share of GDP, manufacturing in LDCs is at the same level as industrialized countries, but without having undergone the structural transformation path – which involves an increase in the share of manufacturing GDP followed by a decline. The presentation by UNIDO is included in Annex A1-AC.
CONSIDERATION OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS
STATUS OF THE WORK OF THE DEDICATED SESSION

STATUS OF THE PREPARATION OF FACTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Report by the Chairman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notifying Member</th>
<th>PTA Name/Description</th>
<th>Date of notification</th>
<th>Data for factual presentation initially due by</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Duty-free treatment for LDCs</td>
<td>14.10.2011</td>
<td>2.3.2012</td>
<td>Import data received. Awaiting complete tariff data. Also awaiting notification of up-to-date regulations in a WTO language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme for LDCs</td>
<td>5.9.2011</td>
<td>23.1.2012</td>
<td>Awaiting complete import and tariff data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>Duty-free treatment for LDCs</td>
<td>27.10.2011</td>
<td>16.3.2012</td>
<td>Tariff data received. Awaiting complete import data. Also awaiting notification of up-to-date regulations in a WTO language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Duty-free treatment for LDCs</td>
<td>21.7.2015</td>
<td>8.12.2015</td>
<td>Import data received. Awaiting complete tariff data. Also awaiting notification of up-to-date regulations in a WTO language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX A1_AB
Committee on Trade and Development

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE ENABLING CLAUSE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY MECHANISM FOR REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

STATUS OF THE PREPARATION OF FACTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Report by the Chairman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RTA Name</th>
<th>Date of notification</th>
<th>Data due</th>
<th>Data received</th>
<th>Factual Presentation sent to parties</th>
<th>Comments due</th>
<th>Comments received</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Comments delayed (Agreements among Members)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGADIR Agreement (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) (G)</td>
<td>22.2.2016</td>
<td>15.7.2016</td>
<td>Data received; Secretariat updating factual presentation to send back to the parties based on new data/information provided</td>
<td>11.4.2017</td>
<td>23.5.2017</td>
<td>Some</td>
<td>Not all comments received; Secretariat has revised parts of the factual presentation on basis of new data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCC-Singapore (G)</td>
<td>30.6.2015</td>
<td>23.11.2015</td>
<td>Data received from Singapore; data prepared by the WTO Secretariat for the GCC</td>
<td>10.10.2016; additional tables sent 20.12.2017</td>
<td>21.11.2016</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No comments received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAC Enlargement (G)</td>
<td>1.8.2012</td>
<td>8.3.2013</td>
<td>Data received</td>
<td>19.5.2014</td>
<td>16.6.2014</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No comments received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Comments delayed (Agreements with Non Members)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Data delayed (Agreements among Members)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCOSUR-SACU (G)</td>
<td>19.7.2017</td>
<td>11.12.2017</td>
<td>MERCOSUR (27.11.17); awaiting import data from Paraguay, Namibia, and for 2013-2015 for Lesotho and Swaziland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from Paraguay and some SACU members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India-Thailand (G)</td>
<td>18.6.2017</td>
<td>10.11.2017</td>
<td>No data received. Data from the IDB used</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Factual presentation being drafted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador-Cuba (G)</td>
<td>29.11.2013</td>
<td>24.4.2014</td>
<td>Data from Cuba but incomplete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from El Salvador and Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea-India (G)</td>
<td>27.9.2010</td>
<td>10.11.2010</td>
<td>Data received from Korea; data on preferential tariff (2010-2019) outstanding from India</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India-Nepal (G)</td>
<td>2.8.2010</td>
<td>20.12.2010</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from India and Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea-ASEAN (G)</td>
<td>6.7.2010</td>
<td>27.2.2012</td>
<td>Data received from Korea and from all but two ASEAN members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from Cambodia, and Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India-Afghanistan (G)</td>
<td>8.3.2010</td>
<td>26.7.2010</td>
<td>No data received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from both parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Data delayed (Agreements with Non Members)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt accession to COMESA (G)</td>
<td>3.1.2017</td>
<td>6.6.2017</td>
<td>Data received from Egypt, Seychelles and trade data from Swaziland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from all other parties including tariff data from Swaziland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTA Name</td>
<td>Date of notification</td>
<td>Data due</td>
<td>Data received</td>
<td>Factual Presentation sent to parties</td>
<td>Comments due</td>
<td>Comments received</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFTA-Accession of Afghanistan (G)</td>
<td>29.7.2016</td>
<td>22.12.16</td>
<td>Trade data received from Sri Lanka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and tariff data from Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India-Bhutan (G)</td>
<td>30.6.2008</td>
<td>10.8.2009</td>
<td>No data received; MFN tariff and trade data for India available in the IDB.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting preferential tariff data from India and trade and tariff data from Bhutan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFTA (G)</td>
<td>21.4.2008</td>
<td>10.8.2009</td>
<td>Data received from Bangladesh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Awaiting data from Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Agreements not in force for all parties (Agreements among Members)

6. Agreements not in force for all parties (Agreements with Non-Members)

7. Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement Name</th>
<th>Date of Notification</th>
<th>Data Due</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands Trade Agreement (PICTA)</td>
<td>28.8.2008</td>
<td></td>
<td>Agreement not in force for all parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador – Ecuador (G)</td>
<td>22.3.2018</td>
<td>30.8.2018</td>
<td>Data to be provided by 29.8.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCOSUR-Egypt (G)</td>
<td>19.2.2018</td>
<td>10.7.2018</td>
<td>Data to be provided by 10.7.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic – Panama (G)</td>
<td>18.3.2016</td>
<td>9.8.2016</td>
<td>Factual presentation being drafted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries

UNOFFICIAL ROOM DOCUMENT

82ND SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2018

Powerpoint presentations (two) as delivered during the meeting.

* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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UPDATE ON RECENT TRENDS IN LDCs’ TRADE INCLUDING TOURISM

Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries

Update of WT/COMTD/LDC/W/65
WTO, 25 April 2018

LDCs’ Merchandise Trade, 2010-2017
(US$ billion)

Source: WTO-UNCTAD.
LDCs’ Share in World Merchandise Trade 2010-2017 (%)

Source: WTO-UNCTAD.

LDCs’ Merchandise exports by LDC sub-grouping, 2010-2017 (US$ billion)

Source: WTO-UNCTAD.
**LDCs: Trade in Commercial Services 2010-2017**

(US$ billion)

![Graph showing LDCs Trade in Commercial Services 2010-2017]

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates.

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**Exports of Commercial Services**

![Bar chart showing annual growth of exports]

**Imports of Commercial Services**

![Bar chart showing annual growth of imports]

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates.
LDCs: Share in World Trade in Commercial Services, 2010-2017 (%)

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates.

Growth of LDCs’ Exports of Transport, Travel, and Other Commercial Services

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates.
International tourist arrivals to LDCs and LDCs’ Travel exports

- Travel exports $18.4 billion in 2017
- 55% of LDCs’ services exports in 2017
- 29 million tourists in 2017
- 12 million tourist arrivals in 2017


Growth of LDCs’ Travel exports and merchandise products, 2005-2017

Source: WTO-UNCTAD and WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates (for Travel). 2016 is the latest available year for commodities.
Growth of International Tourist Arrivals to LDCs, 2005-2016

- International tourist arrivals to LDCs
- Rest of world

10% average annual growth 2005-2015
4% average annual growth 2005-2015

Source: WTO estimates based on UNWTO data (for LDCs) and UNWTO.

LDCs in Asia
85% of tourists from Asia in 2015

LDCs in Africa
63% of tourists from Africa in 2015
Growth of tourist arrivals to LDCs in Asia from selected Asian economies, 2012-2015

- China
- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- Hong Kong, China
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Korea Rep. of
- Chinese Taipei
- Japan

Average annual % growth

Source: WTO estimates based on UNWTO data.

Average annual growth of tourist arrivals from China to LDCs, 2012-2015

LDCs in Asia

LDCs in Africa *

* Based on tourist arrivals from China to LDCs in Africa, which account for 80% of African LDCs’ travel exports. Source: WTO estimates based on UNWTO data.
Some reflections...

Tourism to LDCs is *predominantly intra-regional*...
...from Asia to LDCs in Asia, from Africa to LDCs in Africa

Conversely statistics show from where tourists are not coming from...
...Surprisingly, not from high-income developed economies such as North America, hardly from the Middle East, a few from Europe predominantly to African LDCs (LDCs Islands are more diversified in origin of tourists)

**Not yet sufficiently inter-regional?**

Reliable statistics are crucial for planning, investment, and diversification of the tourism sector!

3 LDC Export Percentages:

- 0.6% - Commercial Services
- 0.95% - Merchandise
- 1.4% - Travel
Travel and tourism value chain
Travel Channel Meets Discovery Channel: How Tourism Can Promote Export Performance and Diversification

We all enjoy a nice vacation. Today, tourism has become a major driver of economic growth around the world. But measuring its impact, either directly or indirectly, is an evolving exercise.

Our new research unveils a strong association between tourism inflows from a particular country and increases in exports of traditional or “exotic” goods to that same country the following year. In other words, tourism not only helps local vendors sell goods to people on vacation, but also works as a springboard for promoting traditional products abroad once that vacation is little more than a memory.

Any exporting company, large or small, has to overcome certain costs of entering and successfully surviving in the global marketplace. Part of these costs comes from the work done to learn about the right production technology, to learn about foreign demand, to build a brand’s reputation, and to figure out how to upgrade quality standards to better meet the demands of international clients. Tourism can alleviate many of these costs.

First, tourism provides a relatively inexpensive platform for cost “discovery”— the process of learning how to efficiently combine inputs to produce. Second, it acts as an easily accessible trade fair, where domestic producers can promote their goods. Thirdly, and perhaps most notably, these goods are then promoted abroad once tourists return home, helping to generate new networks of potential trade partners. Yet, the literature on tourism has thus far largely overlooked the injection of these promotional, network, and learning effects on export performance and diversification.
AFRICAN UNION
الإتحاد الإفريقي
UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AU SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORT, TRANSCONTINENTAL AND
INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES,
ENERGY AND TOURISM
13TH - 17TH MARCH 2017
LOMÉ, TOGO

PLAN OF ACTION ON TOURISM
(2017-2019)

WTO OMC
Need for urgent action/global partnerships to mobilize resources (ODA/public and private investment) for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization in LDCs
Conference-background, objectives, participation

• Background: 7th edition; long standing UNIDO commitment to LDCs

• Objectives: to identify innovative schemes/mechanisms for mobilizing resources with a view to advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (IPoA MTR, HLPF 2017)

• Participation: 41 government delegations from LDCs; in total over 400 participants;

Industrial development in LDCs-current situation

MVA per capita: level and growth (2010 USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Average annual growth rate (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1990-1999 2000-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing &amp; EIEs (excluding LDCs)</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>457</td>
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<td>3.3 5.3</td>
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<td>4,861</td>
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<td>1,185</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>1,686</td>
<td>1.1 1.9</td>
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### Industrial development in LDCs-current situation - ctd.

#### Share of MVA in total GDP (%)

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<tr>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>12.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing &amp; EIEs (excluding LDCs)</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>16.7</td>
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<td>18.3</td>
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<td>14.5</td>
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<td>15.2</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
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### Industrial development in LDCs-current situation - ctd.

#### MVA per capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>African LDCs</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Asian LDCs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Island LDCs</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Share of MVA in GDP

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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African LDCs</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>8.7</td>
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<td>10.0</td>
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<td>17.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Island LDCs</td>
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<td>10.1</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>9.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
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<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Industrial development in LDCs-current situation-ctd.**

**Share of LDCs in world manufacturing exports (1990-2015)**

![Graph showing the share of LDCs in world manufacturing exports from 1990 to 2015.]

**Manufactured Exports - share in merchandise exports**

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<tr>
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</thead>
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<td>61.2</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>83.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>83.5</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.0</td>
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<td>LDC</td>
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<td>44.3</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>62.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>78.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Industrial development in LDCs - current situation - ctd.

Share of Medium- and High-tech manufactured exports in total manufactured exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing &amp; EIEs (excluding LDCs)</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>53.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrialized Economies</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>64.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>60.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conference - outcome and way forward

Main message:
- Need for urgent action/global partnerships to mobilize resources (ODA/public and private investment) for ISID in LDCs
- Promising models: UNIDO’s Programmes for Country Partnership (PCP); Capacity Development Programme for Investment Promotion in LDCs; third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

Outcome:
- Ministerial Declaration, UNIDO General Conference Resolution

Way forward:
- UNIDO-led efforts: PCP; IDDA III
- Capacity development programme for IPA of LDCs
Thank you for your kind attention!

For further information please access:
www.unido.com/idc2017
ANNEX 2
CIRCULAR NO: 56/18

TD/10/10/1

11 April 2018

TO : OFFICIAL CONTACTS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

[Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu]

FROM : SIONE TEKITEKI, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

SUBJECT : NOTIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION OF THE PIFS WTO MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

Members are advised that the Pacific Islands Forum has been granted approval (Attached) to establish a Permanent Observer Office at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

2. Upon completion of due administrative procedures and notifications, the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will be renamed as the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations in Geneva.

3. Members will recall that in 1999 Forum Leaders, recognising the significant impact that the WTO rules will have on the economies of the FICs, endorsed the establishment of a regional representative office in Geneva to defend their trade interests and to participate in the negotiation of global trading rules.

4. Accreditation to the UNOG strengthens our regional representative office in Geneva in that it provides a strong foundation for partnership and collaboration between the PIF Office and the trade-related international agencies based in Geneva to better deliver on the Office’s mandate as outlined by Forum Leaders in 1999. Related benefits include: enhanced visibility of Pacific trade-related needs, easier and more direct access to senior offices within the trade-related organisations, and improved information from trade-related organisations. This accreditation will not change the current trade mandate of the PIF Geneva Office and any expansion beyond this mandate remains a matter for Forum Leaders to decide.
5. Further to the above, accreditation to the UNOG ensures the Office’s alignment to Swiss Government regulations for observer missions at International agencies based in Geneva. Similarly, it follows the same practice adopted by other regional organisations based in Geneva such as the ACP Secretariat, Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

6. Members are continually encouraged to utilise the services of the Office in Geneva, as the need arises.

7. For any clarifications, please contact Mr Sione Tekiteki, Director Governance and Engagement on email: sionet@forumsec.org or the Permanent Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum in Geneva, Ambassador Mere Falemaka on email: mere.falemaka@pifs-geneva.ch

[Signature]

Sione Tekiteki
Officer-in-Charge

Attach.

cc: FSM Embassy, Suva
Kiribati High Commission, Suva
Nauru High Commission, Suva
Republic of the Marshall Islands Embassy, Suva
Papua New Guinea High Commission, Suva
Solomon Islands High Commission, Suva
Tuvalu High Commission, Suva
Vanuatu High Commission, Suva
CROP [PASO, PIDP, PIFFA, PPA, SPC, SPREP, SPTO, USP]
Forum Associate Member [Tokelau]
Forum Country Observers [American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, Timor-Leste, Wallis & Futuna]
13 February 2018

Excellency,

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 27 November 2017, informing him of your Organization’s decision to establish a Permanent Observer Office at the United Nations Office at Geneva. I have the honour to convey to you that the Secretary-General welcomes this decision.

Mr. Michael Moller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, has been duly informed and all necessary facilities will be made available to assist in any way possible.

I would like to extend to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signature]
Peter Van Laere
Chief of Protocol

Her Excellency
Dame Meg Taylor, DBE
Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum
Suva, Fiji
TO: Mr. Michael Moller  
A: Director-General  
United Nations Office at Geneva

DATE: 13 February 2018

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:  
S/C DE:

FROM: Peter Van Laere  
DE: Chief of Protocol  
United Nations Headquarters

SUBJECT: Establishment of Permanent Observer Office of the Pacific Islands  
OBJET: Forum to the United Nations Office at Geneva

I am pleased to advise you that the Pacific Islands Forum informed the Secretary-General of its decision to establish a Permanent Observer Office to the United Nations Office at Geneva. A copy of the response, on behalf of the Secretary-General, welcoming this decision is attached.

cc: Mr. Sergei Shaposhnikov
Ms Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti  
Chef de Cabinet  
Executive Office of the Secretary General  
Room S-3821  
United Nations Headquarters  
One United Nations Plaza,  
New York, NY, 10017  
USA

Dear Chef de Cabinet,

Attached please find a letter from Secretary General Meg Taylor, DBE to the UN Secretary-General HE Antonio Guterres on the intention of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to establish a Permanent Delegation to the UN office at Geneva.

2. We would appreciate your forwarding the attached to its highest destination.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Paki Ormsby  
Director Policy

Copy: Ms Osnat Lubrani  
United Nations Resident Coordinator & UNDP Representative – UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Level 8, Kadavu House, Victoria Parade  
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands.

Ms Agnes Harm  
UN Coordination Specialist
INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

You may recall that on 27 October 1994 the United Nations General Assembly, during its Forty-Ninth session, adopted Resolution 49/1 which conferred Permanent Observer status to the South Pacific Forum (now the Pacific Islands Forum) to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.


3. I write to indicate our intention to establish a Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) as an Observer Intergovernmental Organisation.

4. Our intention is motivated by the desire to intensify relations with the United Nations Organizations with a presence in Geneva, including Specialized Agencies, Programmes, Funds, Initiatives, Joint Programmes, and related organizations of the United Nations System. The current mandate of the Pacific Islands Forum’s presence in Geneva means that we will initially prioritise intensified cooperation with United Nations Organisations who are active in the area of trade development. Areas of cooperation may expand in the future based on the determination of our political leadership.

5. Upon receiving your kind consideration, I intend to nominate a Permanent Observer to the UNOG which will be submitted through the Office of the UNOG’s Director-General.

6. Please accept, Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Meg Taylor, DBE
Secretary General