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The Services Policy Restrictiveness Database (SPRD)
SPRD hosts detailed and comparable information on policy measures affecting trade in services. It covers 103 countries, five key service sectors and the most relevant mode(s) of supply per sub-sector. The degree of restrictiveness towards foreign service providers is assessed by a Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI). More information can be found at econ.worldbank.org/programs/trade/services.

Temporary Trade Barriers Database (TTBD)
TTBD contains freely available and detailed data on more than 30 countries’ use of policies such as antidumping, global safeguards, China-specific transitional safeguards and countervailing duties. The information in the database covers over 95 percent of the global use of these measures from 1980s through 2010 and includes data on products, firms, investigative procedures and results. The TTBD is the first attempt to use national government documentation to organize information on the application of these trade policies by most of those using the WTO system. It can be accessed from data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/temporary-trade-barriers-database.

The Transparency in Trade (TNT) initiative
TNT is a new multi-year program with five major components: (i) tools—MAcMap and WITS (providing access to trade and trade barrier information); (ii) tariff data collection; (iii) non-tariff measures data collection; (iv) trade remedies ( antidumping, countervailing duties, safeguard actions); and (v) policies affecting trade in services.

- The African Development Bank (AfDB) will contribute in the area of NTM data collection, capacity building and dissemination in the African region. The AfDB will be leading the process of identifying the NTMs and develop mechanism to remove them. They will also provide support for action-oriented “knowledge platforms” that brings together relevant stakeholders to move forward the regional integration agenda. The AfDB is developing a system for monitoring implementation of regional trade agreements (RTAs) to make integration process more transparent and make the processes more sustainable.

- ITC will lead in collecting tariff data and contributing to collection of data on NTMs and further enhancing MAcMap to serve the needs of exporters, trade support institutions and policy makers especially in developing countries.

- UNCTAD will lead in coordinating the collection of NTMs data, working with other partners in this effort. UNCTAD will also maintain and update the TRAINS database and provide training and technical assistance to improve capacity in developing countries, economies in transition and their regional organizations to collect and use these data.

- The World Bank will lead in collecting data on anti-dumping, safeguards, countervailing duties, and on services trade policies, and work with partners to further enhance the WITS application.
The Transparency in Trade initiative (TNT) is a joint venture launched by the African Development Bank, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Bank to cooperate in the trade data collection effort and to combine forces in providing users with free tools that can be used to access and analyze trade policy and market information. The TNT will give users a free single portal on the web through which they access the data and the tools that each organization generates. TNT provides a framework through which the four agencies will cooperate to fill key data gaps that exist and work together to strengthen the capacity of institutions in developing countries to collect and report information on trade policies.

Improving transparency in trade is an important priority in the wider effort of leveraging trade for more inclusive economic growth. Market opening tries, especially low-income economies, information on prevailing NTMs is frequently incomplete and outdated. The situation is particularly serious for African countries. Generating up-to-date information on trade policies is a major public good. Providing this good requires not just the collection, organization, and dissemination of data, but more importantly building capacity in developing countries to own and sustain the necessary data collection process.

Key elements of the TNT are the tools and the underlying databases that have already been developed. These include ITC’s Market Access Map (MaCMap), UNCTAD’s Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS) and the World Bank’s World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Service Policy Restrictiveness Database (SPRD), and the Temporary Trade Barriers Database (TTBD).

Market Access Map (MaCMap)

MaCMap is a product of ITC. ITC is the joint technical cooperation agency of UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO). ITC has created a range of market analysis tools to help countries expand their exports by identifying opportunities for product and market diversification. A major tool for doing this is MaCMap. This has been designed to support exporters, importers, trade promoters, policy analysts and trade negotiators. ITC tools contain a wide range of navigation options, combined with a powerful set of analytical outputs in tables, maps and charts in a format easy to analyze, broken down by sets of products, sectors, and countries. MaCMap also offers a simulation function to calculate effects of tariff reductions. ITC’s market analysis tools serve over 150,000 exporters, trade support institutions and policymakers in 224 countries and territories with key information about the multilateral trade and financial system, information about market access conditions, and investment and trade opportunities. MaCMap can be accessed from www.macmap.org.

Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS)

TRAINS is a trade database developed by UNCTAD and includes information on tariffs (MFN and preferential) and NTMs, as well as import trade flows for more than 150 countries. TRAINS data are disaggregated up to the 6 digit of the Harmonized System (HS) and span from 1988 to 2010. Tariff data are also separately available at the national tariff line level. Since 2001, in cooperation with the World Bank, TRAINS has been incorporated in the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) software for online access. Since 1994, TRAINS has been the primary source of tariff and nontariff data for policymakers and researchers world-wide, although the coverage of NTB data is much less comprehensive and needs upgrading. TRAINS is conceived to be a public good accessible freely by all those interested in trade policy matters, especially policy makers, academia and researchers. Access to TRAINS is provided free of charge to everyone, including through the WITS software application. TRAINS can be accessed from: r0.unctad.org/trains_new/index.shtm.

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WITS is a trade system giving access to major international trade and tariff databases. These comprise the UN COMTRADE database containing trade statistics in values and quantities; UNCTAD’s TRAINS database and WTO’s IDB and CTS databases. WITS’ main users are economists, researchers, academia, government analysts, and trade policy makers.
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Improving transparency in trade is an important priority in the wider effort of leveraging trade for more inclusive economic growth. Market opening is of little value if firms do not know about the trade opportunities that exist. Governments need to be aware of the barriers to trade that prevail in potential export markets, and which policies are the most restrictive so that negotiations can center on removing those of highest priority. As tariffs have been gradually reduced, increasingly prevailing trade restrictions take the form of so-called non-tariff measures (NTMs). These are inherently less visible and transparent than simple tariffs. Examples include differential treatment of imports with an initial quantity that is allowed to enter the market with a low tariff, while imports that exceed this initial amount (tariff quota) are subject to higher rates of taxation and prevailing NTMs. These include the ITC, UNCTAD, and the World Bank. Notwithstanding the efforts of these agencies, an important transparency gap remains, especially for NTMs and trade in services. For many countries, especially low-income economies, information on prevailing NTMs is frequently incomplete and outdated. The situation is particularly serious for African countries. Generating up-to-date information on trade policies is a major public good. Providing this good requires not just the collection, organization, and dissemination of data, but more importantly building capacity in developing countries to own and sustain the necessary data collection process.

Key elements of the TNT are the tools and the underlying databases that have already been developed. These include ITC’s Market Access Map (MacMap), UNCTAD’s Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAIMS) and the World Bank’s World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Service Policy Restrictiveness Database (SPRD), and the Temporary Trade Barriers Database (TTBD).

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Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAIMS)

TRAIMS is a trade database developed by UNCTAD and includes information on tariffs (MFN and preferential) and NTMs, as well as import trade flows for more than 150 countries. TRAIMS data are disaggregated up to the 6 digit of the Harmonized System (HS) and span from 1988 to 2010. Tariff data are also separately available at the national tariff line level. Since 2001, in cooperation with the World Bank, TRAIMS has been incorporated in the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) software for online access. Since 1994, TRAIMS has been the primary source of tariff and nontariff data for policymakers and researchers world-wide, although the coverage of NTB data is much less comprehensive and needs upgrading. TRAIMS is conceived to be a public good accessible freely by all those interested in trade policy matters, especially policy makers, academia and researchers. Access to TRAIMS is provided free of charge to everyone, including through the WITS software application. TRAIMS can be accessed from: r0.unctad.org/traims_new/index.shtm.

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WITS is a trade system giving access to major international trade and tariff databases. These comprise the UN COMTRADE database containing trade statistics in values and quantities; UNCTAD’s TRAIMS database and WTO’s IDB and CTS databases. WITS’ main users are economists, researchers, academia, government analysts, and trade policy makers.
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Improving transparency in trade is an important priority in the wider effort of leveraging trade for more inclusive economic growth. Market opening is of little value if firms do not know about the trade opportunities that exist. Governments need to be aware of the barriers to trade that prevail in potential export markets, and which policies are the most restrictive so that negotiations can center on removing those of highest priority. As tariffs have been gradually reduced, increasingly prevailing trade restrictions take the form of so-called non-tariff measures (NTMs). These are inherently less visible and transparent than simple tariffs. Examples include differential treatment of imports (with an initial quantity that is allowed to enter the market with a low tariff, while imports that exceed this initial amount (tariff quota) are subject to higher rates of taxation) and various types of regulations – such as health, safety, product-specific technical regulations and standards, as well as sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The situation is particularly murky for firms when it comes to trade in services, where it is often necessary for companies to hire specialists to help decipher which policies determine whether they will be able to provide their services to buyers in a foreign market.

A number of international organizations have a long track record of collecting and reporting information on trade flows, applied tariffs, and prevailing NTMs. These include the ITC, UNCTAD, and the World Bank. Notwithstanding the efforts of these agencies, an important transparency gap remains, especially for NTMs and trade in services. For many countries, especially low-income economies, information on prevailing NTMs is frequently incomplete and outdated. The situation is particularly serious for African countries. Generating up-to-date information on trade policies is a major public good. Providing this good requires not just the collection, organization, and dissemination of data, but more importantly building capacity in developing countries to own and sustain the necessary data collection process.

Key elements of the TNT are the tools and the underlying databases that have already been developed. These include ITC’s Market Access Map (MaCMap), UNCTAD’s Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAIND) and the World Bank’s World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Service Policy Restrictiveness Database (SPRD), and the Temporary Trade Barriers Database (TTBD).

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- The African Development Bank (AfDB) will contribute in the area of NTM data collection, capacity building and dissemination in the African region. The AfDB will be leading the process of identifying the NTMs and develop mechanism to remove them. They will also provide support for action-oriented “knowledge platforms” that brings together relevant stakeholders to move forward the regional integration agenda. The AfDB is developing a system for monitoring implementation of regional trade agreements (RTAs) to make integration process more transparent and make the processes more sustainable.

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