

Let me start by thanking the Indonesian Government for hosting this 2012 WEDF event in such a high-level performance and hospitality.

I also want thank you, Patricia Francis, and your ITC team for putting together the energy and the capacity to make this happen. I can assure you that it was a success.

During these three days we had the opportunity to debate and share real experiences from different parts of the world. Now the point is how we use all this knowledge in concrete actions to connect growth markets in the new dynamics of global trade.

I will focus my comments and recommendations in one element constantly mentioned by participant national authorities and the private sector was **information** as an obstacle and as a path to better perform our development.

It is clear that in the new global trade dynamic, information is very important because will allow us to study new markets tendencies, will help to take informed decisions and to implement better strategies, will also assist us to identify trade obstacles, as well will provide other views to policy makers and decision takers players.

Now, from the list of items expressed by the participants I selected a group of 5 topics that show us the relevance of the information in the changes that are taking place. For example:

- 1) The negative impact of NTBs in the global trade,
- 2) Trade analysis in South- South Cooperation,
- 3) Information asymmetries and trade platform as a possible solution,
- 4) SPS Measures Database
- 5) Trade Facilitation

RECOMMENDATIONS

I think here ITC can play an important role to address these issues through its different programs.

1) Continue and Deepening the Analysis of the Negative Impact of NTBs in the Global Trade,

Many speakers and questions from the audience mentioned the negative impact of these measures that not only prevent trade but also could generate market uncertainties; therefore there is a need to avoid its application.

I want to remark the excellent work that ITC is doing in this front with different programs in many countries like Uruguay. Deepening these examinations of ITC and disseminating the results of the negative impacts should generate awareness to trade operators as well regulators to avoid its use.

2) Trade Analysis in South- South Cooperation

The topic of this WEDF edition is “Linking Growth Markets: New Dynamics in Global Trade”. Here the South-South cooperation, South-South trade plays and will play a key role in making possible these linkages.

One of the speakers mentioned the lack of analysis and information of new markets from other regions as an obstacle.

I consider that ITC as an international agency can be key in providing services that will allow small and medium enterprises from developing and transition economies countries to benefit from this analysis programs and its new opportunities.

3) Information Asymmetries and Trade Platform as a Possible Solution

Many small and medium enterprises face the problem of getting the correct information in order to be in better market positions.

One of the solutions that could be implemented is through a trade platform to gather information on the new trends of the markets

For example Uruguay is working with ITC in the implementation of a trade platform that will allow our trade representatives in our embassies and in Montevideo to provide better information to the private sector.

4) SPS Measures Database

In the agricultural front another critical problem faced by many agricultural exporters countries is the application of SPS measures that prevent a fluent trade among countries.

Here again ITC could provide services program to identify the negative impacts of these measures in trade development.

This identification will also help policymakers to avoid the implementation of these measures and at the same time exporters will have a better idea of the different restrictions in place in other markets saving time and costs.

5) Trade Facilitation

Finally, it was clear from the discussions that trade facilitation has a great impact if things are not in place because costs and time will be much higher in those countries implementing border restrictions.

Identifying and processing the information of these restrictions will help to reduce costs and increase trade volumes in south-south countries.

There are other items that can be considered in this list as critical to gain more advantages in the new dynamic of doing trade between developing countries.

Thank you very much