

UNITED NATIONS



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AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
INSTITUT AFRICAÏN DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET DE PLANIFICATION
(IDEP)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Announcement in Brief

Course Type: Short Term Course

Programme Area: International Trade

Date: 10 - 21 April 2017

Duration: 2 Weeks

Language: Bilingual (English & French)

Location: Dakar, Senegal

Fee: US \$ 2,500 (Excluding air travel and subsistence costs)

Scholarships: Yes (IDEP offers a limited number of partial and full scholarships)

Application Deadline: 3rd March, 2017

PROGRAM RATIONALE

Trade policy occupies a strategic place in the search for national development. Depending on the national development strategy which states define for themselves, trade could be a powerful tool for the realization of their key objectives. African countries have, over the years, sought to employ their trade policy as an instrument to, among other things, promote domestic industrial development, strengthen the overall productive capacities of their economies, enhance revenue flows, improve competition and productivity, win foreign markets, (re)organize domestic markets, transfer technology, and advance the goals of regional cooperation and integration. Nevertheless, the success which most of the countries on the continent have registered with deploying trade policy as an effective instrument for advancing national and regional development has been limited. Evidence of this limited success abounds and is summarized by the precarious productive base of African economies, the lack of diversification in their exports, and the small and stagnant share of world trade which they command individually and collectively. Redressing this situation has been a long-term pre-occupation of officials at various levels, local and international.

Initiatives that have been promoted towards improving the capacity of African governments to better harness and deploy trade policy as an instrument for the attainment of their development goals have been varied. They include trade support programs provided by various multilateral development institutions, including the World Trade Organization (WTO); the trade policy reform programs championed by the Bretton Woods institutions as part of efforts at structural adjustment; and aid-for-trade programs supported by a range of bilateral donors. These initiatives have not, however, always had the desired impact, suggesting that what is required, in part at least, by African countries is the building of skills for the formulation of dynamic trade policies which are able to respond to their specific needs and circumstances, including, in particular, their ambitions for industrial development and regional integration. Such skills demand not only a first-hand knowledge of the current rules and workings of the international trading system but also adeptness at reconciling them with and in favour of national and regional development priorities. The skills called for also require a capacity, among others, for the forward-reading of global economic processes and trends, geo-political shifts occurring in the international economic system, a full awareness of price and currency movements, innovations in technology, shifting market preferences, and emerging new sources of value.

In this context, delivering a course focused on ways and means to make policy-makers better understand the International Trade Policy System in order to design policies favouring national and regional development is crucial to the African continent.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the course is to contribute to the development of a critical mass of highly skilled middle and senior policy officials and decision makers who will be suitably or better equipped to design and manage dynamic trade policies for the development of their countries, sub-regions and the continent. More specifically, the course will provide training on trade policy design, doing so on the basis primarily of the expressed interest of African governments to ensure that their international trade relations are fundamentally developmental.

The course will respond to the needs articulated by African governments for a corpus of skilled mid-level and senior personnel who are adequately equipped to design, implement and evaluate trade policies that dovetail with national and regional development needs and aspirations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- A comprehensive understanding by participants of the nature and workings of the international trading system and its potentialities and limitations for driving national and regional economic transformation;
- An enhancement of the negotiating capacity and techniques of trainees;
- A reinforcement of the capacity for the formulation, management, monitoring and evaluation of trade policies;
- A better understanding of the comparative experiences of other regions of the world and the lessons which they offer to the countries of Africa; and
- A broader capacity to assess draft trade agreements from a developmental point of view.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

The pedagogical approach will combine lectures, roundtables and simulation exercises. It will emphasize practical applications through the use of case studies and group discussions. Group work will also be employed to promote peer learning and impart knowledge and skills. Participants admitted into the training programme should be prepared to present short technical reports on specific themes covered in the course.

Participants' performance will be assessed throughout the duration of the course. This will be done through discussions, individual work, group work and general tests which will be graded by various resource persons. On the basis of the average grades obtained by each participant, three different certificates will be awarded, depending on performance: (1) *Certificates of Competence* (with Excellent, Very Good and Good), (2) *Certificates of Participation* or (3) *Certificates of Attendance*.

MODE OF DELIVERY

- **Language:** The course will be delivered in English and French (simultaneous interpretation services will be available).
- **Duration:** Two (2) weeks.
- **Number of participants:** A total number of twenty-five (25) participants will be admitted into the short course.
- **Resource persons:** Resource persons with first-hand knowledge of Africa's trade policy challenges and a deep comparative knowledge of international trade policies and agreements will deliver the modules for the benefit of participants in the course.

METHOD OF APPLICATION AND NOMINATIONS

Applications and nominations are on the basis of a form which all interested participants are expected to complete and send back to IDEP along with their CV and copies of the main pages of their passport. **The forms are available on the IDEP website (<http://www.uneca.org/events/idep>) and can be submitted online or downloaded for transmission by fax or as e-mail attachment.** Candidates are advised to complete all the relevant sections of the forms; incomplete applications will not be processed.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- Middle and senior level policy officials and managers directly connected with or responsible for planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating trade policy and development in their countries;
- Officials involved in the negotiation of trade agreements on behalf of their governments.

COURSE TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

The cost of this course is USD 2,500 (this fee excludes air travel and subsistence costs). Please note that IDEP offers a limited number of partial and full scholarships to those admitted to participate in its programs. Thus, self-sponsored candidates are also encouraged to apply for this capacity development programme. Please note that priority is given to self-sponsored applicants.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: **Friday 3rd March 2017**
- Course Period: **10th – 21st April 2017**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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