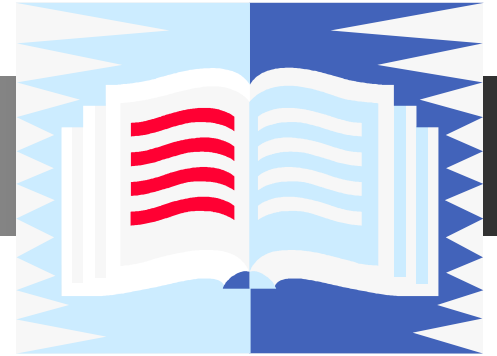




**Regional Policy Forum on Trade  
Facilitation and SMEs in Times of Crisis**  
**WTO Negotiations on Trade Facilitation**  
**State-of-Play**

**Beijing, 22 May 09**  
**Nora Neufeld, WTO**

# Overview



- ① **Latest developments**
- ② **Progress made**
- ③ **Road ahead**



# Part 1

## ① Latest developments



# 1. Latest developments

## ❖ Moving forward

- **Steady progress**
- **Parameters of the envisaged TF Agreement are taking clear shape**
- **Good idea of likely content**
- **Positive climate despite challenging overall environment**



# 1. Latest developments



## ❖ Main areas of attention

### ➤ Proposals

- Ongoing refinement and consolidation process
- Complementary activities

### ➤ Needs assessment program



# 1. Latest developments



## ❖ Principles of operation

- Member-driven
- Bottom-up
- Transparent
- Inclusive



# Part 2

## 2 Progress made



## 2. Progress made

### ❖ What's on the table?

#### ➤ **Framework for eliminating many NTBs**

- ✓ **Improved regulatory framework**
- ✓ **Enhanced due process rights**
- ✓ **Reduction of multiple and sometimes contradictory recommendations that have no guarantee of being enforced**
- ✓ **Common direction & sustainability of reforms**
- ✓ **Enhanced competitiveness and better integration into the global economy**



## 2. Progress made

### ❖ **Special relevance for SMEs**

- **lower transaction costs**
- **more transparent, predictable and efficient trading environment**
- **reduced discrimination**
- **increased trading opportunities**



## 2. Progress made

### ❖ **Proposals of particular interest for SMEs**

#### ➤ **Examples**



## 2. Progress made

### ❖ Main reference documents

- **Compilation of negotiating proposals  
(TN/TF/W/43/Rev.18)**
- **Document summarizing the state of  
work on S&D  
(JOB(09)40))**



# Part 3

## 3 Road ahead



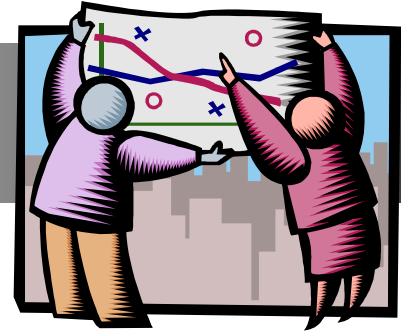
## 3. Road ahead



- ❖ **Remaining work to be done**
  - ✓ **Consolidation process**
  - ✓ **Refinement of proposals**
  - ✓ **Advancement of S&D work**



## 3. Road ahead



### ❖ Next steps

- ✓ Process
- ✓ Prospects



## 3. Road ahead



### ❖ Requirements

- **Enhanced engagement**
- **Serious commitment**
- **Readiness to compromise**
- **Cooperation & coordination**



# Summary

- ☑ **Good progress made**
- ☑ **Promising outcome**
- ☑ **Particular potential for SMEs**
- ☑ **Need for committed, flexible, joint approach**

