LDC participation in services exports

Council for Trade in Services Webinar
Least-Developed Country services export performance and facilitating implementation of preferences notified under the LDC services waiver
2-3 June 2021

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LDCs: 46 countries - Africa 33, Asia 9, Pacific 3, and Caribbean 1

1 billion people

0.3% of world services exports
LDC share in world services exports remains flat over the years

Note: Covers services exports through all four modes of supply. Source: TISMOS dataset.
In 2019, LDC participation in global exports was well below 1% in most services sectors.

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Tourism, transport and distribution the largest sectors, business and professional services increased most
Services exports grew rapidly in Asian LDCs

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Services exports are dominated by a few players.

52.2% of LDC services exports
LDC services exports collapsed in 2020

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates.

$16.9 billion export revenue loss in 2020
...as tourism was ravaged by the pandemic

Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC estimates.
What do we know about LDC bilateral services exports?
LDC services exports reach few economies

Share in LDC services exports, 2019

Source: OECD-WTO BATIS dataset.
Large economies are the main origin of LDC international tourism revenue.

Source: OECD-WTO BATIS dataset.
60% of LDC transport services exported to 10 countries

Share in LDC Transport exports, 2019

Source: OECD-WTO BATIS dataset.
40% of LDC business and professional services originate from one LDC

Share in LDC exports of Other business services, 2019

Source: OECD-WTO BATIS dataset.
40% of ICT services reach the US, India, and China

Share in LDC exports of ICT services, 2019

Source: OECD-WTO BATIS dataset.
Construction are equally concentrated but partners are different

Share in LDCs' Construction exports in 2019

Source: OECD-WTO BATIS dataset.
Conclusions

Few LDCs export services

Exports are concentrated to few sectors

Exports reach few economies in the world

Significant services trade data gaps in LDCs (detailed sectors and bilateral)

Lack of mirror data (services imports from other countries)