Facilitating Compliance to the TBT Agreement with the Use of e-Ping

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Outline

➢ Agency responsibility
➢ Challenges/Limitations
➢ Recommendations
➢ Regional Initiatives
➢ Summary
➢ Next Steps
The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) responsibility:

- Implementation and Administration of the WTO TBT agreement
- Operation of the national TBT Enquiry Point
Challenges with Tracking and Commenting on Notifications

➢ Challenges

▪ ePing is not widely used nationally
▪ No formal coordinating structure for stakeholders:
  - related to TBT matters (eg. National committee)
  - to educate on ePing use and registration
  - to develop national positions
  - to enable sectoral comments
▪ Currently, National WTO TBT Enquiry Point individually receives and disseminates comments on notifications
Regional Initiatives

➢ Regional Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, Information Management and Enquiry Points (TIE)

- Assisting CARICOM member states with the update of Enquiry Point information and notification of Implementation Statements
- Provides linkage to regional Enquiry Points

Tool: - questionnaire to request enquiry point information and to identify assistance needed with implementation statements

Status: responses to the questionnaires are being collated
ePing - Tool to Facilitate the Work of the Regional and National Committees

- ePing
  - a tool to effectively address time constraints of national/regional committees
  - facilitates sectorial discussions on proposed notifications
  - can assist with national Enquiry Point discussions for harmonization regionally
  - can disseminate specific sectoral information
Summary

➢ Summary

➢ ePing is a tool
  - stand alone maximum benefits will not be derived

  ▪ In the absence of a forum to educate on ePing’s advantages and benefits
    - its use will not increase
    - limited analysis and data capture
    - limited experience in its use
Next Steps

➢ Technical Assistance to facilitate a national WTO Workshop on transparency and the use of ePing

- Approval for a national coordinating committee for non-tariff barriers
Thank You for your attention

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