

Summary of the fourth STDF PPPs Practitioner Group virtual meeting

29 Apr. 2021, 16.00-17.00 (CET)

Participants

29 STDF Working Group members and other stakeholders with interest in PPPs (see Annex I).

Purpose

The PPP Practitioner Group aims to support and improve the planning, delivery and dissemination of [STDF's work on PPPs](#), across relevant knowledge and project work. The STDF Secretariat convenes members of this Group to benefit from their PPP technical expertise, promote innovations and synergies to expand and strengthen PPPs that facilitate safe trade, and exchange experiences and learning. This is expected to result in: i) new collaborative relationships to promote the use of PPPs to strengthen SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade for the benefit of developing countries, ii) new information and knowledge products on experiences and learning related to the use of PPPs for dissemination on the STDF website and via members, as well as iii) additional resources to promote the use of PPPs to build SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade.

This meeting focused on the work on PPPs of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) at the World Economic Forum (WEF), with a presentation by Amine Belkhadir, Yuri Saito and Candice White.

Presentation and discussions

Amine Belkhadir, Yuri Saito and Candice White, explained the work of GATF on assisting LDCs and developing countries with the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the engagement with the private sector. The presentation covered:

- In-kind support from the private sector at a global level including expertise, best practices and acting as ambassadors for the Alliance.
- GATF's approach towards partnerships with the local private sector, relevant government entities and the global private sector. PPP approach enables the strengthening of capacities and trust building. Positive results obtained from a study to measure trust building between public and private sector in a project in Colombia.
- Portfolio of different GATF projects covering developing countries, from LDCs to emerging economies. Example of ePhyto solution project implemented in Morocco to promote safer and faster trade (which has generated approx. US\$30 million in average gains per year), as well as the strong involvement of the private sector in the relevant project steps.
- MSME involvement in project design and importance of taking into account their challenges.
- Series of knowledge products on PPPs including private sector engagement, trust-building methodology, metrics to quantify in-kind contributions from the private sector, other tools and case studies.

Key discussion points:

- Interest in trust building measurement study and methodology, and implications of virtual working mode on public-private sector trust and collaboration. Presence of a trusted person on the ground highlighted to be a success factor between the sectors. Improvement of

communication technologies can address the challenges of maximizing trust building in the context of virtual interactions.

- Interest in opportunities to learn about the GATF-supported ePhyto initiatives in India to feed into other planned project in early stage of discussions with local plant protection authorities in India.
- Tendency of large private sector companies to be more interested in collaboration in upper middle-income countries, compared to LDCs. Importance of developing partnerships and engagement with LDCs to build awareness and untap connections with the private sector.
- GATF approach and process of problem identification based on multiple bilateral and multilateral discussions with public and private sector stakeholders. Opportunities to leverage national trade facilitation committees as a built-in mechanism to discuss priorities.
- Hackathons as an innovative tool to bring different stakeholders together to identify issues related to trade facilitation. Additional information on hackathons to be made available soon by WEF.
- STDF's Practitioner Group on e-certification has discussed opportunities for Codex and OIE to learn and benefit from IPPC's experiences on ePhyto (supported through STDF project). Practical guidelines and a system to exchange electronic certifications is expected. Opportunity to build synergies based on initiatives such as ePhyto.

Next steps / follow-up

- Share forthcoming GATF publications on trust and metrics/in-kind contributions with the Practitioner Group once available.
- The next meeting will be held by the end of **June 2021**. More information on that meeting will be shared shortly.
- Meeting's summaries and presentation can be accessed on the [STDF PPPs practitioner group webpage](#).
- Participants are invited to share PPP resources they may have, which will be disseminated through the STDF website.

Annex I: List of Participants

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