

Geneva, 2 June 2010

Sustainability Standards and their Role in International Trade and Development

Invitation to a Public Event on 1-2 July 2010

Dear Madam/Sir,

It is our pleasure to invite you to a Public Event on Sustainability Standards in International Trade and Development which will be jointly organized by the International Trade Centre and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

One of the major achievements of the Earth Summit 1992 in Rio de Janeiro was to establish “sustainable development” as overarching principle of development. Over the past two decades, it has become evident that legally binding regulations alone are not sufficient when it comes to gradually achieving social, environmental and competitive objectives in the global economic and trade system. Voluntary standards and codes of conduct have the potential to significantly contribute towards international value chains placing greater emphasis on social and ecological aspects.

The main objective of the seminar is to discuss the different elements of sustainable standards and their role in international trade and development. This includes their structure, requirements and policy implications. Practical experiences with regard to their implementation will be given and ITC will present its tools to foster sustainability standards.

The seminar will follow a multi-stakeholder approach and brings together experts and practitioners with different backgrounds, including international organizations, government representatives, the private sector, civil society organisations and academics.

We hope that you will be able to honour us with your presence on this occasion. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information. Tel: 0041 22 733 35 45 or info@fes-geneva.org

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the WMO for this event.

Sincerely,



Joseph Wozniak
Program Manager ITC



Winfried Veit
Director, FES Geneva