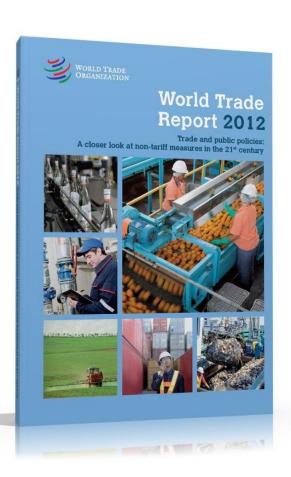
# World Trade Report 2012



Trade and public policies:
A closer look at non-tariff
measures in the 21st
century

 Motivation behind NTMs is changing (public policies becoming more prevalent)

NTMs raise a transparency issue

Public policies have ambiguous trade effects

Public policies require deeper cooperation



### **Motivations behind NTMs**

- Governments employ NTMs to achieve public policy objectives such as:
  - Protection of public health or the environment
  - Addressing information asymmetries
- Archetypical examples of public policy NTMs: TBT/SPS measures and domestic regulation in services
- Public policy concerns have grown, adding significantly to the complex nature and variety of NTMs deployed by governments
- The expansion of the policy agenda implies that NTMs will not shrink in relevance like tariffs have done...



### **Motivations behind NTMs**

- ...but NTMs can also serve a dual purpose: they may be designed or administered in ways that intentionally restrict trade even if their primary purpose is to serve a public policy
- The potential for dual purpose underlies the difficulty of:
  - Distinguishing between "legitimate" and "protectionist" motivations for NTMs
  - Identifying instances where NTMs create "unnecessary" trade costs



## Transparency

- Transparency is a major issue with regard to both NTMs and services measures
- Information on public policies is not as easily accessible as information on border measures
- Public policy measures are diverse and difficult to compare across countries and sectors (AVEs are needed)
- Their effects depend on how they are applied



## Transparency

- The report taps diverse sources of data: notifications, data collected from official sources, concerns raised at the WTO, disputes, business surveys
- None of the available data sources provides comprehensive coverage
- Some stylized facts:
  - Inconclusive evidence of a rising trend in NTM incidence over the last 20 years (=>)
  - Some evidence of upward trend in TBT/SPS measures (=>)
  - TBT/SPS measures are major impediment to exporters (=>)
  - Procedural obstacles matter (=>)



### Trade effects

- Trade effects depend on the measure and are highly variable
- Calculation of AVEs raises both methodological and practical issues
  - Value chains amplify the effect of trade costs and this is difficult to document
  - The effect of specific measures is difficult to single out
- In the case of standards, trade effects hinge on the degree of policy heterogeneity
- Harmonization of TBT/SPS measures increases trade, in particular by enhancing the presence of small and medium sized firms in export markets



## Cooperation

- Historically, regulation of NTMs in trade agreements has addressed the problem of tariffs being replaced by NTMs
- Global supply chains create a need for deeper forms of institutional integration to prevent distortions of trade and investment decisions along the supply chains
- The increased prominence of public policies driven by consumer concerns has also created a need to develop rules to identify efficient and legitimate uses of NTMs

预览已结束,完整报告链接和二维码如下:

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\_7323

