Greening RTAs: Insights from Peru

Ernesto Guevara

Director of Technical Requirements for Foreign Trade Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism-Peru

Key knowledge gaps in making RTAs greener

- Lack of knowledgment and communication between Environment Chapters and Other Chapters
- No consideration of the transversal nature of environment issues
- See environment as "a burden" on trade negotiations rather than "a key tool" on trade negotiations and implementation
- Lack of involvement on trade environment state of the art discussions

Potential areas and approaches in greening RTAs

- Incorporate substantive environment-related provisions on some Chapters: Market Access, SPS, TBT, Investment, among others
- Communication and coordination between leads of Environment Chapters and Other Chapters
- Use of cooperation provisions on addressing environment-related provisions in Other Chapters
- Evaluation of progress on implementing those environmentrelated provisions

Some provisions on Other Chapters (reference: the TPP Agreement)

MARKET ACCESS

- Trade of products of modern biotechnology
- Working Group on products of modern biotechnology under the Committee on Agricultural Trade (information exchange and cooperation)

- INVESTMENT
- Performance requirements do not impede a Party to adopt environmental measures related to the conservation of living or nonliving exhaustible natural resources
- Measures to ensure that investment activity in a Party's territory is undertaken in a manner sensitive to environmental objectives
- Regulatory actions by a Party to protect the environment do not constitute indirect expropriations

Some provisions on Other Chapters (reference: the TPP Agreement)

SPS

- Risk analysis: consideration of technical and economic feasibility on adopting a risk management option less restrictive to trade
- Adaptation to regional conditions: Assessment by the importing Party of request for determination of regional conditions of the exporting Party

TBT

- Adoption or maintenance of technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures in accordance with rights and obligations under TBT Agreement (legitimate objectives)
- Technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures that relate to the production, processing or labelling of products as organic for sale or distribution

Towards a process for greening RTAs

- Environment Chapter: specific provisions with little or no coordination with other Chapters (although its impact on the RTA)
- Other Chapters: simple mention to a general phrase (without any coordination with environment experts)

Environment Chapter Other Chapters

Communication between Chapters

- Describe background of Other Chapters and Environment Chapters
- See and understand the complexities of both Chapters
- Look for common understanding

 Environmentrelated provisions (other Chapters) + Specific provisions (Environment Chapter): comprehensive approach

Synergy between windment Chapter at Other Chapters

Next steps on greening RTAs and facilitate their successful implementation

- A process of change of mind on trade negotiators about environment (provide information, statistics, exchange of experiences, etc): demythify environment as "a burden"
- Political decision and technical execution to impulse inclusion of environment-related provisions on Other Chapters of the RTA
- Capacity building on negotiators and executors of the environmentrelated provisions on Other Chapters: lessons learned, discussions

Thank you for your attention