

Bureau of Commerce and Trade Services Activity Highlights January 2014 – January 2015

- Successfully published Liberia's First National Trade Policy – a document which trumpets Liberia's regional and multilateral engagements with MRU and ECOWAS via the CET and its accession to the WTO;
- Published the National Export Strategy which is benchmarked on fish and crustaceans, cocoa, palm oil, rubber and the cross sectors;
- Used the MSME Conference to launch the two policy documents and with the visit of Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez, champion Liberia's accession to the WTO;
- Through the Trade Facilitation Forum (TFF), reduced the Non-tariff barriers from 18 to less than 10 – thanks to the coordinated stakeholders participation from the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Fula Business Association, Customs Brokers Association, MFDP, NPA, BIVAC and other players;
- Ensure supply and price stability for three critical products: rice, petroleum and cement;
- Produced at least three editions of the Commerce Today, a monthly trade bulletin that has become useful tool for critical commodity data, transport fares, etc;
- Held awareness raising working sessions on SPS, TBT and WTO Agreements for members of the WTO Technical Working Groups;
- Raised awareness on trade facilitation rules and procedures among brokers, and private sector players and progressively facilitated trade within the commerce of Liberia;
- Actively led the drafting of the Negotiation Inputs (Market Access Offers on Goods and Services, Legislative Action Plan (LAP), Responses to Members' Questions, Action Plans for SPS and TBT) leading up to the Second Working Party meeting;
- Contributed to the finalization of technical inputs for Liberia's implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) and the ECOWAS-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA);

- Participated and reasserted the case for Liberia's membership both at the July 2014 WTO General Assembly and the WTO Public Forum which focused on Africa and how Trade impacts its development and participated;
- With assistance from the IGC and the World Bank, commissioned and finalized two key studies on the impact of price control on commodities in Liberia and the trade in services respectively.
- Provided tailored training opportunities in trade facilitation (China training), WTO Agreements (2014 Global Seminar) for trade and ITC training on WTO Rules and Agreements.