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# The TBT Agreement

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## Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade

**Why a TBT Agreement?**

1947 2004

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## Philosophy of the TBT Agreement

Right to Take Regulatory Measures

Avoid Unnecessary Obstacles to Trade

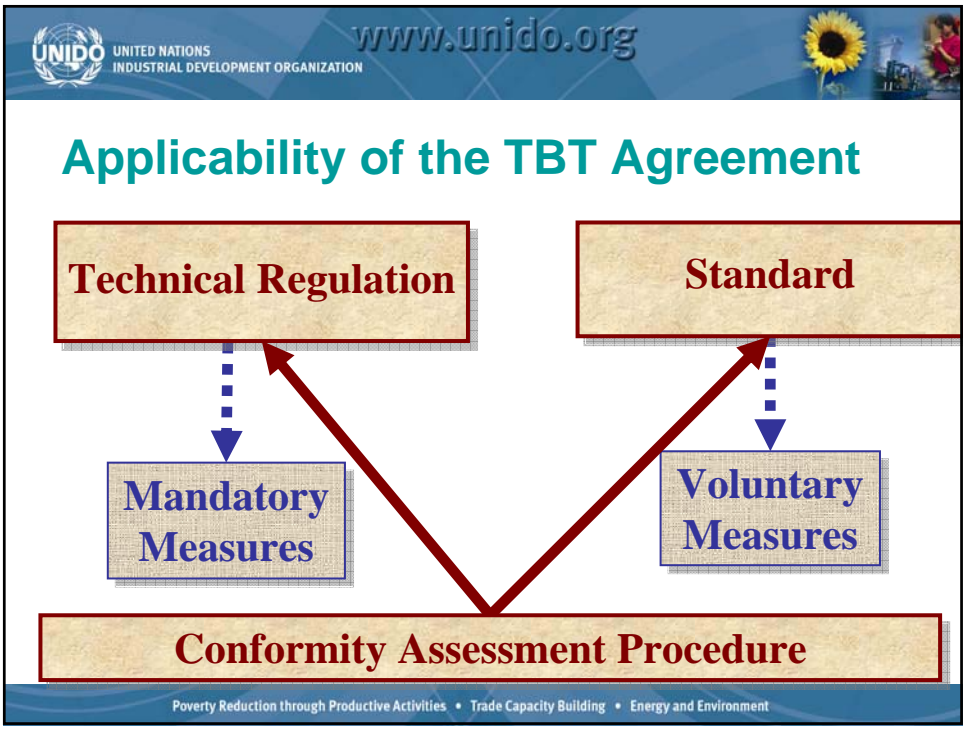
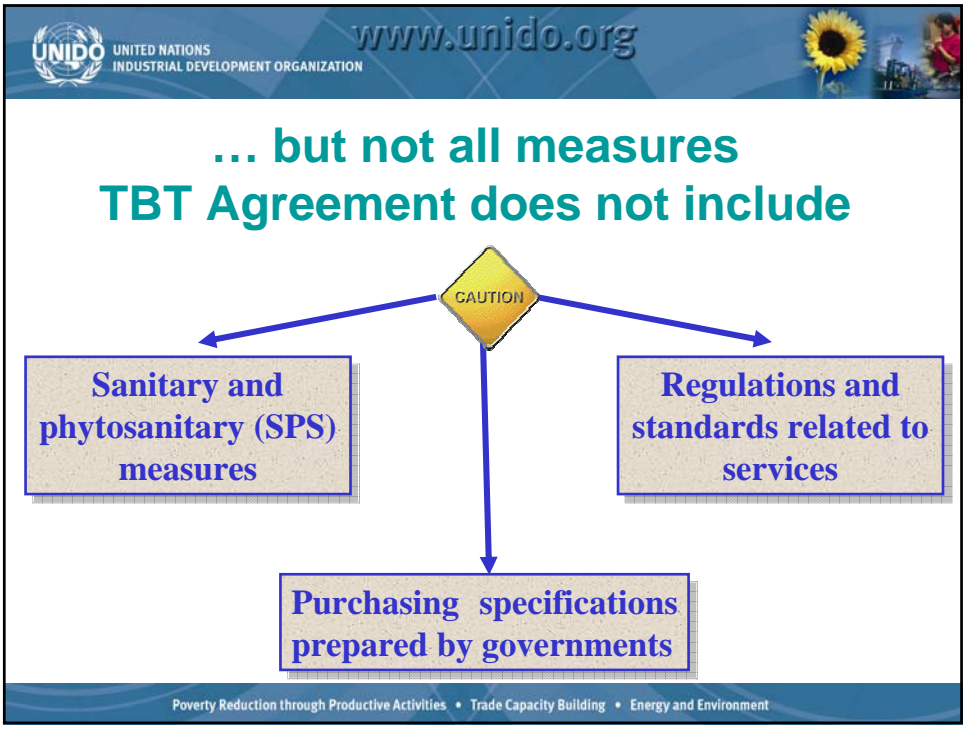
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## All products are covered...

**TBT Article 1.3**  
**“All products, including *industrial* and *agricultural* products, shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement.”**

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## Technical Regulations

"Document which lays down **product characteristics** or their **related processes and production methods**.....with which compliance **is mandatory**. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking and labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method."

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## Standards

- "Document approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or **characteristics for products or related processes and production methods**, with which compliance **is not mandatory**. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method."

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## Standard (voluntary)

The diagram features a central box labeled "TBT Annex 1.2" with a red icon of a person at a desk with a question mark. Three arrows point from this box to three separate boxes on the right, each describing a characteristic of a voluntary standard.

- Approved by a Recognized Body (standardizing body)
- Provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods
- Compliance is voluntary

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## Basic Principles of the TBT Agreement

- Non - Discrimination**
- Avoidance of unnecessary obstacles to trade**
- Harmonization**
- Equivalence and Mutual Recognition**
- Transparency**
- Technical Assistance and S&D Treatment**
- Dispute Settlement**

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Roundtable on Issues Related to the  
Establishment and Activation of National  
Committees on Trade and Environment  
(Beirut, 12 – 14 January 2010)



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**Thank you  
for your kind attention.**

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