

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

**REGIONAL**

**RULES OF ORIGIN SMART CALCULATOR**

**(RG-T4875)**

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

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**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Operation Type:	Technical Cooperation
Sector:	TRADE
Subsector:	TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS AND REGULATIONS
TC Taxonomy:	Client Support
Project Number under the Operational Support Taxonomy:	N/A
Technical Responsible Unit:	PTI/TIN-Trade and Investment Division
Unit with Disbursement Responsibility (UDR):	PTI/TIN-Trade and Investment Division
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this TC is to design, develop, and implement, in a participatory and collaborative manner, a RoO Calculator that allows exporters and importers from beneficiary countries to: (i) assess, track, and self-certify compliance with origin requirements across PTAs, and (ii) compile and organize information that substantiates the declaration of origin. The objective of this tool is to enhance the capacity of firms in beneficiary countries — especially SMEs—to take full advantage of the tariff preferences negotiated under PTAs .

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount in US\$</b>
TCN - Nonreimbursable	W1A - OC SDP Window 1 - Regional Public Goods	938,000
<b>Total IDB Financing</b>		<b>938,000</b>
<b>Counterpart Financing</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Total Project Budget</b>		<b>938,000</b>
Donors:	N/A	
Disbursement Period:	36 months	
Execution Period:	36 months	

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

N/A

## I. JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 **Diagnostic.** The proliferation of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA)<sup>1</sup> in Latin America and the Caribbean has created a complex network of rules and commitments that poses a common challenge for governments and businesses throughout the region. While these PTAs are key for enhancing market access, they also present a complex operational environment for exporters that must navigate multiple sets of technical trade rules.
- 1.2 At the heart of this complexity lie the Rules of Origin (RoO). RoO's define the conditions by which a product is considered to be originating from a member country of the agreement, and thus eligible for preferential market access. The rationale for RoOs is to avoid triangulation in which one country exports goods to second country that then ships them to a third country with which it has a PTA, thus, allowing the non-member to receive the PTA preference. As tariff differentials emerge around the world, it is essential to provide a solid process for firms to accurately self-certify the origin of goods.
- 1.3 RoO criteria are defined as requirements based on tariff classification changes, different methods of calculating regional value content or inputs, and specific processing requirements. The way in which these criteria are applied—individually or in combination—varies widely across agreements and products. As a result, a firm producing the same good for different markets may face entirely different compliance calculations and documentation obligations.
- 1.4 Additionally, origin regimes include certain flexibilities and requirements that facilitate compliance with the prescribed rules. These include, for example, the de minimis provision, different types of cumulation (product-based, process-based, or extended), among others.
- 1.5 The complexity of RoOs has contributed to the underutilization of trade agreements. Takahashi and Urata (2009) find significant variation in preference utilization rates by agreement, concluding that certification procedures should be simplified to reduce compliance costs, particularly for SMEs with limited administrative capacity. Krishna, Salamanca, Suzuki, and Volpe Martincus (2025) further demonstrate that the costs of preference utilization likely decline with exporter experience, underscoring the importance of helping newer exporters and SMEs utilize preferences to expand their exports.
- 1.6 In this context of PTA proliferation, wide variety of RoO definitions, and lack of harmonized compliance tools, a critical regional challenge emerges—one that is most efficiently and effectively addressed through a coordinated, multi-country solution rather than fragmented national efforts. This regional-level coordination and development can help ensure a consistent regulatory interpretation, contributing to greater facilitation, predictability, and transparency in the preferential operations of the member countries of a PTA.

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<sup>1</sup> A PTA is an agreement between countries to grant each other trade preferences, such as lower or zero tariffs. It can be unilateral (a one-sided preference given by one government to another) or bilateral. ([WTO, 2025](#)).

- 1.7 **Request.** This TC involves designing, developing, and implementing, in a participatory and collaborative manner, a Rules of Origin Smart Calculator that enables exporters and importers—especially SMEs—in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay to enhance their capacity to fully utilize the tariff preferences negotiated under PTAs to which they are part.
- 1.8 The user of the calculator will enter data on the production structure of the good being exported, and the calculator will (i) determine if the origin requirements are met; and (ii) identify the reasons for non-compliance. Examples of such data include: Harmonized System (HS) codes of the product and its inputs, countries of origin, and information on costs and quantities. Since different versions of the HS are applied in origin determination, the calculator will guide the user through the process of transposing all these tariff codes into the current version of the HS.
- 1.9 The calculator will automatically assess whether the product complies with the applicable RoO in the selected PTAs. This compliance analysis will generate individual reports for each of the agreements concerned. In the case of self-certification regimes, the calculator will assist in generating supporting evidence to accompany origin certifications issued directly.
- 1.10 A regional approach and intervention to address the issues identified in the Diagnosis offer several key advantages. These include the consistent application of RoO across participating countries, ensuring that no country loses competitiveness due to RoO compliance challenges or related disputes, cost efficiencies through joint technology design, development, data structuring, maintenance, and user support, and the creation of a modular, multi-country solution that facilitates the onboarding of additional countries and PTAs during and after implementation. In addition, multi-country participation in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the conception, design, and validation of products and deliverables will enhance quality assurance by incorporating a wider range of perspectives and experiences.
- 1.11 Similarly, participating in the PSC will contribute to the development of trust-based relationships between participating governments' representatives, which may generate additional collective action opportunities. It may also help identify collaboration opportunities for trade-related agencies from participating countries that are not represented in the PSC. Discussions in the PSC will generate information about good practices held by each of the participating countries, thus generating the opportunity for replication in other countries. A regional intervention signals a strong regional commitment to trade facilitation, which may contribute to the generation of new opportunities for new PTAs.
- 1.12 The calculator will be hosted in the IDB's ConnectAmericas<sup>2</sup> (CA) cloud and operated by the CA team. This will contribute to the sustainability of the initiative

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<sup>2</sup> ConnectAmericas is the first social network for businesses in the Americas, dedicated to promoting foreign trade and international investment. It seeks to help SMEs strengthen their businesses, by providing them access to communities of clients, suppliers and investors in the region and all over the world, segmented by industry. It also provides useful and simple information about procedures and regulations for international

beyond the duration of this CT by ensuring that the calculator's hosting, user support, and dissemination will become part of that CA's annual operations, and be covered by CA's annual budget. By being part of the CA technology ecosystem, the Calculator will benefit from constant technology updates undertaken by CA. In addition, to help ensure sustainability and reach, the calculator will be made available through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) so that beneficiary country governments can embed the tool into their Trade Single Windows, Trade Promotion Organizations' websites, and other relevant web platforms. This will also be made available to all LAC countries, beyond those participating in this RPG.

- 1.13 Furthermore, given the centralized User Support to be provided by CA, the regional intervention will generate a shared knowledge base of frequently asked questions and case resolutions. Since multiple countries will be using the same Calculator, countries will benefit from shared training materials and a joint capacity-building program. Designing a UX/UI that considers the perspectives of firms and government agencies from multiple countries will help ensure a design that works well in multiple settings. Likewise, launching a tool that, from the beginning, includes 4 countries will facilitate the pitch to new countries to be onboarded.
- 1.14 **Objective.** The objective of this TC is to design, develop, and implement, in a participatory and collaborative manner, a RoO Calculator that allows exporters and importers from beneficiary countries to: (i) assess, track, and self-certify compliance with origin requirements across PTAs, and (ii) compile and organize information that substantiates the declaration of origin. The objective of this tool is to enhance the capacity of firms in beneficiary countries —especially SMEs—to take full advantage of the tariff preferences negotiated under PTAs.
- 1.15 **Complementarity.** This TC is complementary to PTI's operations and technical cooperations in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay that seek to maximize trade integration, investments, technological innovation, and sustainable development in strategic, productive sectors.
- 1.16 In Argentina, it complements AR-L1251 "Program for the Implementation of the National System for the Argentine International Trade Single Window", which aims to optimize the country's international trade processes through the creation of the Argentine International Trade Single Window (VUCEA) and to facilitate its interoperability with other countries' trade platforms. It is also aligned with the objectives of this Loan's supporting TCs — AR-T1329 "Support for the Trade Facilitation and Internationalization Agenda of Argentina" and AR-T1405 "Support in the Implementation and Evaluation of Reforms to Facilitate Foreign Trade and in the Development of the National Strategy for the Internationalization of the Knowledge Economy" — which seek to simplify foreign trade procedures and promote reforms that help SMEs export and access new international markets.
- 1.17 In Brazil, it complements BR-T1659 "Support to Brazil's Trade and Investment Facilitation Initiatives", which aims to advance Brazil's participation in the global

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commerce, and about the financing opportunities available in IDB member countries. Available at: <https://connectamericas.com/>.

- economy; BR-T1443 “Support in the Implementation of the New Trade Policies and Market Access Agreements in Brazil”, which aims to disseminate and implement the new trade policy and agreements related to trade openness, BR-T1530 “Brazil More Productive Program: new growth paths taking advantage of the reconfiguration of global value chains” that contributes to the consolidation of capabilities of the Government and public institutions in charge of policies for productive development and increasing productivity and competitiveness; and, BR-T1584 “Sustainable Investment Attraction and Export Promotion” which supports investment attraction and export promotion activities in the Brazilian Amazon region.
- 1.18 In Paraguay, it complements PR-T1331 “Towards a new era of investment and Paraguayan foreign trade: modernization and simplification of institutions and instruments for attracting investment, export promotion and trade facilitation”, which includes reviewing the design, implementation and improvement of trade facilitation tools, including optimizing the Single Window for Foreign Trade (VUCE) and a Single Window for Investments (VUI); PR-T1393 “Trade and Investment Facilitation in Paraguay: Implementation of a coordinated border management model and new investment facilitation instruments” which seeks to support the coordination, design, and digitalization of trade and investment processes; and, PR-T1358 “Support for improving productivity in Paraguay” which funds the design of interventions aimed at increasing the productivity and digitalization of SMEs.
- 1.19 In Uruguay, it complements UR-L1204 “Promotion Program for the Internationalization of Uruguay”, a loan in preparation that aims to improve the efficiency exporting, importing and investment procedures by optimizing single windows for foreign trade and investment, and to boost the effectiveness of export and investment promotion instruments and their complementarity with other business support services; and, its supporting TC UR-T1343 “Support for the Uruguay productive transformation program through internationalization, innovation and talent”.
- 1.20 Finally, this TC aligns with the purpose of CA. Launched by PTI in 2014, it is the first social network for businesses in the Americas, designed to help SMEs access international markets. It provides access to a global community of clients, suppliers, and investors, information about procedures and regulations for international trade, and financing opportunities available to exporters in IDB member countries. CA hosts a community of over 750,000 people and 260,000 companies. Thus, it constitutes a suitable environment to host and disseminate the RoO Calculator. This TC will complement CA's existing services by providing a tool that helps SMEs overcome RoO compliance challenges, thus increasing the price competitiveness of their goods in key markets.
- 1.21 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is aligned with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631) objective (iii) “bolster sustainable regional growth by: facilitating trade for the exporting firms of the region”, since the RoO Calculator aims to increase the number of firms that can demonstrate compliance with rules of origin, and, therefore, access preferential tariffs. This will increase the competitiveness of these exporters, and, thus, bolster regional growth. It is also aligned with the following focus areas: (vi) “productive development and innovation through the private sector” by expanding export

capacity due to increased price competitiveness and increasing access to global value chains; and (vii) "regional integration" by lowering the effective tariffs that exporters face when exporting to LAC countries that PTA with the country of origin.

- 1.22 Moreover, is aligned with the Ordinary Capital Strategic Development Program (OC SDP) (GN-2819-14), Window 1, Core Commitment 1 - Regional Public Goods (W1A), as it contributes to collective action through the multi-country, participatory design, development, and dissemination of a Rules of Origin Smart Calculator that will enable exporters and importers, especially SMEs, to enhance their capacity to fully utilize the tariff preferences negotiated under Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). In addition, this CT is aligned with Priority Area 4 "Competitive Global and Regional Integration" as access to preferential tariffs through compliance with rules of origin increases the competitiveness of the prices offered by LAC exporters trading with clients in countries that have PTAs with the country of origin.
- 1.23 It is consistent with the Strategic Agreement between Argentina and the IDB Group Country Strategy 2025 - 2028 (GN-3288), Pillar 2 "Liberalizing the economy to unlock private investment and growth", that seeks to support reforms aimed at simplifying and opening up foreign trade, reducing barriers, and improving competitiveness. This TC directly supports these Pillar 2 goals by simplifying procedures to enable more firms to certify origin and access preferential tariffs.
- 1.24 It is consistent with the Brazil and IDB Group Strategic Agreement. Country Strategy 2024-2027 (GN-3243-3), Pillar 2, "Accelerating growth through strong institutions and enhanced productivity" by fostering Regional Integration, as it seeks to facilitate the integration of Brazil with regional partners that have PTAs with Brazil, supporting trade flows and economic cooperation.
- 1.25 It is consistent with the Paraguay and IDB Group Strategic Agreement. Country Strategy 2025-2029 (GN-3261-3), Pillar 2, "Productive Paraguay," which intends to enhance trade facilitation by optimizing trade transaction procedures. The RoO Calculator optimize the process of certifying compliance with rules of origin and accessing preferential tariffs.
- 1.26 Lastly, it is consistent with the IDB Group Country Strategy with Uruguay 2021-2025 (GN-3056), Priority Area B "Sustainable productive development" which aims to boost exports and investment and foster the adoption of digital technologies by SMEs. RG-T4875 will contribute to the objective of boosting exports by facilitating access to preferential tariffs to a broader set of companies.

## II. COMPONENTS

### 2.1 Components.

#### 2.2 **Component 1: Design of the Rules of Origin Smart Calculator (USD 180,000).**

Funds from this component will be used to engage firms and individual consultants to carry out: (i) a stakeholder consultation that benchmarks similar tools, gathers insights from exporters, business associations, and surveys firms to identify pain points; (ii) a legal and PTA analysis of regional RoO to develop terms of use, privacy policies, and disclaimers of the RoO Calculator; (iii) a definition of business and technical requirements for the RoO Calculator through user stories and mock-ups that are validated with end-users and participating governments, and formalized into TORs for the development of the calculator; (iv), and a governance model outlining roles for the Project Steering Committee and functional teams. The key collective action activities in this component will be: (i) identification of types of stakeholders to engage and engagement mechanisms (ii) the identification all key legal documentation, in addition to the PTAs, that shall be considered for each of the countries during the legal and PTA analysis, (iii) definition of the technical and business requirements for the calculator (this will take place in meetings where all the participating countries are represented), and (iv) the design of the roles and responsibilities for the Steering Committee, and the decision-making mechanism to be used in the steering committee. The participating countries may provide inputs on the activities to be performed through technical dialogue with the Bank as the Executing Agency.

#### 2.3 **Component 2: Develop the Rules of Origin Smart Calculator (USD 490,000).**

Funds from this component will be used to engage firms and individual consultants to develop the Calculator by: (i) producing a database model, including an analysis of existing structures, identifying gaps, and designing an improved architecture; (ii) conducting a UX/UI design to ensure an intuitive interface, validated by users before finalizing requirements; (iii) developing a functioning Calculator and source code in phases –an MVP<sup>3</sup> tested in beta phase with selected firms from participating countries, followed by version 2.0 with full functionality and technical documentation that will be open to the public–; (iv) integrating the new data (the Calculator code) into CA and linking seamlessly with authentication systems, user dashboards, and user and company profiles. The digital products to be developed under this component will be developed by external providers to be selected through competitive processes based on terms of reference validated by the Project Steering Committee. Members of the steering committee will review each deliverable and provide feedback to the provider. The only digital product developed under this component that will be available to the general public will be the 2.0 version of the Calculator. The MVP will be available to a restricted number of invited users. All personal data generated through the platform will be hosted in

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<sup>3</sup> A Minimum Viable Product is a basic version of a new online site with just enough features to be usable by early users. Its primary purpose is to validate its core idea, gather user feedback, and learn from early adopters with the least effort possible.



CA and treated in accordance with the Privacy Policy (available [here](#)) and Terms and Conditions of CA (available [here](#)) developed in coordination with the Bank's LEG team, and in accordance with regulation AM-331. The key collective action activities in this component will be: (i) the collective approval of the final definition of the database architecture to be used, (ii) the collective validation of the UX/UI design, (iii) the review of all proposals received for the development of the calculator, and (iv) the review of deliverables from external providers.

- 2.4 **Component 3: Operate, scale, and improve the Rules of Origin Smart Calculator (USD 253,000).** Funds from this component will be used to engage firms and individual consultants to work on governance, adoption, and continuous enhancement. The activities include: (i) implementing the governance model through the Project Steering Committee; (ii) training and capacity building for end users of the calculator, government officials from the agencies involved in this TC as well as new governments that may join the initiative during implementation; (iii) creating a marketing and dissemination strategy, including a participatory strategy for performance assessment and improvements; (iv) designing an onboarding process to facilitate the Calculator's adoption by new countries or regional blocs; (v) monitoring and evaluating performance by defining KPIs, building a metrics dashboard to be used by the TC's team and implementing user satisfaction surveys and A/B testing; (vi) providing technical support and assistance, developing support content, and implementing iterative improvements to technical support. The governance model for the Steering Committee will involve virtual and face-to-face meetings between TC's team, and the representative of the government agencies involved in this TC. The main activities will involve defining the work plan, reviewing all deliverables, and identifying other areas for cross-country collaboration complementary to the RoO Calculator.
- 2.5 **Expected Results.** The final results of this TC are (1) increasing the utilization rate of preferential trade agreements in LAC and (2) establishing a regional governance mechanism for the design, development, and operation of the RoO Calculator. The final products of this TC are: for component 1 (i) Stakeholder Consultation and Stakeholder report; (ii) Legal and PTA Analysis of Regional RoO report; (iii) Business and Technical Requirements for RoO Calculator, report, mock-ups and ToRs; (iv) Governance Model Design report and guidebooks for participants, for Component 2 (i) database modelling report with new database architecture and technical requirements; (ii) UX/UI design report with design and technical requirements; (iii) RoO Calculator MVP and RoO Calculator 2.0; (iv) RoO Calculator integrated in connectamericas.com, and for Component 3 (i) implementation of PSC, PSC meeting reports; (ii) Training and Capacity Building report with workshop's program and registration records; (iii) Marketing and dissemination materials; (iv) Bi-annual report with new country onboarding ; (v) M&E system, M&E dashboard and bi-annual user survey; and (vi) Technical support document with technical support architecture and bi-annual report of activities.
- 2.6 The first result will be attained by (i) providing a fully functional, multi-country RoO compliance Calculator integrated into CA, covering all targeted PTAs and HS codes; (ii) implementing a marketing campaign aimed at increasing the number of firms that use the Calculator and the number of participating countries; and (iii)

creating an effective user support system and training program to ensure that maximum number of users can effectively utilize the calculator.

- 2.7 The second one will be achieved by (i) establishing the PSC, its governance model, and guidebooks for participants; (ii) fostering collaboration and coordination among participating countries; (iii) ensuring active participation of governments in the planning, deliverables review, and identification of improvements; and (iv) encouraging best practice sharing and collaboration in replication.
- 2.8 Finally, one of the key outcomes of the project is to onboard new countries into using the RoO Calculator by producing marketing campaigns and materials, and sharing the results of implementation with countries participating in the initial phase.
- 2.9 **Beneficiaries.** The direct/specific beneficiaries of this TC are: (i) the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economy of Argentina; (ii) APEX Brazil; (iii) REDIEX Paraguay of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Paraguay; and (iv) the Trade Policy Advisory Office at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uruguay. The final beneficiaries of the project are importers and exporters, especially SMEs.

### III. BUDGET

- 3.1 **Budget.** The total estimated cost of the TC is US\$938,000, financed by W1A - OC SDP Window 1 - Regional Public Goods consistent with GN-2819-14. Counterpart funding is not contemplated. The indicative budget for the operation is shown in Table 3.2.

Indicative budget US\$

Components	IDB/W1A
Component 1: Design the Rule of Origin Smart Calculator.	180,000
Component 2: Develop the Rule of Origin Smart Calculator	490,000
Component 3: Operate, scale, and improve the Rule of Origin Smart Calculator	253,000
Final evaluation	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>938,000</b>

#### IV. EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 4.1 The TC will be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), based on a request by the beneficiaries, in accordance with the Bank's Technical Cooperation Policy (GN-2470-2) and the Procedures for the Processing of Technical Cooperation Operations and Related Matters (OP-619-4), through the Trade and Investment Division (PTI/TIN).
- 4.2 The Bank will execute this TC by virtue of its institutional capacity and operational experience, its effective coordination role and impartiality in the presence of multiple beneficiaries, and its technical knowledge and expertise designing, developing, disseminating and managing digital tools to facilitate trade, particularly for SMEs. The Bank has proven experience coordinating multi-country collective action related to regional integration and trade facilitation. This experience will contribute to a more effective selection and contracting of the studies and other products to be financed under this TC.
- 4.3 Since 2014, the Bank, through its Integration and Trade Sector (now, Productivity trade, and Innovation Sector) has hosted and disseminated CA, an online platform design to help SME's export, and which currently hosts over 260,000 company profiles, and 800,000 registered users. While the CA team will not play a direct role in the development of the ROO Calculator, it will interact assiduously with the Calculator's team to coordinate the technological integration of the calculator into CA, the dissemination efforts of the calculator to the CA community, and the over 350 CA local partners (Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations, Trade Promoting Organizations, and other). In addition, the CA User Support team will be trained on how to support users of the Calculator.
- 4.4 The National Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay have requested that the Bank implements this TC to ensure the satisfactory achievement of the TC's objectives, impact, results and products.<sup>4</sup>
- 4.5 According to the RPG Guidelines a Steering Committee composed of officials from the beneficiary institutions in the participating countries will be established. The main tasks of the Steering Committee are: (i) to review the development of the work program, the procurement plan, and the project budget, as well as the project's financial and progress reports; (ii) to review the terms of reference for the consultancies to be contracted under the project; and (iii) to facilitate the implementation of the activities in order to achieve the project's objectives, including liaising and coordinating with the relevant institutions in each country, providing information required for the consultants' work, participating in meetings and workshops organized under the project, and reviewing the technical inputs and deliverables produced. The Project Steering Committee will follow the technical

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<sup>4</sup> The non-objection letter has been requested from the Official National Liaison. For Technical Cooperation (TC) operations already under execution whether due to the inclusion of new countries identified after approval, or in exceptional cases where letters were not obtained prior to approval, responsibility for obtaining these letters lies with the Project Team Leader and the Approval Authority. No work may proceed without the Governments non-objection letter, which must be recorded in the Banks systems. The beneficiaries letter must expressly request that the IDB act as the Executing Agency for this TC.

and strategic guidance of the IDB to be provided by the Trade and Investment Division of the Productivity, Trade, and Innovation Sector. The Bank, as the Executing Agency may seek inputs or comments from the beneficiaries, but this will not limit its ability to manage the relationship with the consultants and consulting firms.

- 4.6 The beneficiary countries, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, will participate—in coordination with the Bank—through (i) the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of the Economy of Argentina; (ii) APEX Brazil; (iii) REDIEX Paraguay of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Paraguay; and (iv) the Trade Policy Advisory Office of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uruguay. In addition, actions may be coordinated with other public and private institutions to achieve the proposed objectives. The National Governments of the mentioned countries formally requested the Bank to execute the TC through letters of request (see Annex I) to ensure the satisfactory fulfillment of its objectives.
- 4.7 **Procurement.** All procurement to be executed under this Technical Cooperation has been included in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV) and will be hired in compliance with the applicable Bank policies and regulations as follows: (a) Hiring of individual consultants, as established in the regulation on Complementary Workforce (AM-650) and (b) Contracting of services provided by consulting firms in accordance with the Corporate procurement Policy (GN-2303-33) and its Guidelines.
- 4.8 **Execution and Disbursement Period.** This TC will be executed in a period of 36 months. The disbursement period of the project is 36 months. This information is consistent with the implementation periods considered in the Result Matrix (Annex II) and Procurement Plan (Annex IV).
- 4.9 **Monitoring, Reporting, and Supervision.** The designated focal point in the Country Office (COF) is Francisco Estrázulas, Lead Trade and Investment Specialist in Argentina, responsible for execution. The Bank, as the executing agency, will submit annual progress reports through the corresponding system and update annually the physical and financial progress in the Technical Cooperation Monitoring and Reporting System (TCM), as well as a final project report. These will include, among other aspects, a description of the progress achieved, the results obtained, the implementation status of the planned activities, the difficulties encountered, and suggestions for adjustments for the remaining implementation period.
- 4.10 **Final Evaluation:** As part of the requirements established by the Regional Public Goods (RPG) Initiative, resources (US\$ 15,000) will be allocated for the project evaluation to measure the achievement of objectives and indicators, and to systematize the lessons learned from the TCs. The final evaluation must be carried out by an external consultant and with the involvement of participating countries based on the terms of reference previously agreed upon with the Bank and submitted no later than 90 days after the last disbursement of Bank financing.

## **V. POTENTIAL RISKS**

- 5.1 The implementation of a regional project implies a higher level of complexity, as well as risks related to the coordination with local actors. These risks will be mitigated by creating a Project Management Unit, composed of the team leader and other PTI staff and consultants. It will be in charge of day-to-day coordination and communications, and of monitoring and evaluation.
- 5.2 To further mitigate the risks, the project proposes the formation of a Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC will provide strategic oversight, ensuring alignment with objectives, regional needs, and legal and technical accuracy. It will be composed of senior representatives from the participating governments. Specific functions include: reviewing plans, deliverables, and the coding of RoOs, defining KPIs and reviewing monitoring reports, and approving updates and improvements to the calculator.
- 5.3 **Intellectual Property.** Any knowledge products generated within the framework of this technical cooperation will be the property of the Bank and may be made available to the public under a Creative Commons license. However, upon request of the beneficiary, the intellectual property of said products may also be licensed and/or transferred to the beneficiary through specific agreements.

## **VI. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICIES**

- 6.1 This TC does not involve or require any exception to the Bank's Policy.

## **VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS**

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).

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### **REQUIRED ANNEXES:**

- Annex I: Request from Client
- Annex II: Results Matrix
- Annex III: Terms of Reference
- Annex IV: Procurement Plan