

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this Notice contact: Vernita D. Harris, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4701, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4686; email: vharris@ntia.doc.gov. Please direct media inquiries to the Office of Public Affairs, NTIA, at (202) 482-7002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The WTSAs, which occurs every four years, sets the overall strategic direction and activities for upcoming ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) work; defines the general policy for the ITU-T; approves, modifies or rejects ITU-T Standards (known as “recommendations”); and establishes the structure for the ITU-T study groups, approves their expected work program for the next four-year period, and appoints their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. The next WTSAs conference will be held from October 25 to November 3, 2016, in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia. Participants historically include ministers, ambassadors, government delegates, regional and international organizations, and representatives from academia, civil society, and the private sector.

The U.S. Department of State initiated U.S. preparations for WTSAs-2016 in January 2016, which are focused on developing formal U.S. priorities for WTSAs-2016.¹

NTIA, as the principal adviser to the President on telecommunications and information policy, seeks input from stakeholders and other interested parties to develop its recommendations to the U.S. Department of State and to inform any NTIA delegates who will attend the WTSAs. NTIA’s participation in the U.S. WTSAs-2016 preparatory process is intended to ensure that U.S. proposals and positions support the nation’s telecommunications, converged communications infrastructure, information and technology policies to promote economic growth and digital innovation, and do not duplicate the standards development processes of other bodies.

Discussion: There are numerous standards organizations and fora around the globe focused on various aspects of telecommunication and information

policies. No single organization can cover all ground, nor should it try or claim to do so.

The purpose of this Notice and Request for Public Comment is to seek input from stakeholders and other interested parties to share their perspectives as to whether and how the work of the ITU-T results in standards that meet their needs. We are interested in particular on input related to ITU-T restructuring and work methods and rules of procedure.

Questions for Public Comment

NTIA requests comment on the questions below. NTIA also welcomes input and comments on any specific issues being advanced by other countries, private sector organizations, and stakeholders for WTSAs-2016.

(1) Are there overarching objectives and priorities that the U.S. delegation should adopt for WTSAs-2016 and the ITU-T? What is the best way for the U.S. delegation to advance and ultimately achieve these objectives and priorities?

(2) In an environment with a wide range of industry led, multistakeholder standards development organization (SDOs) leading the development of telecommunications and information standards, does an intergovernmental organization, such as the ITU, provide any unique value? How does ITU involvement in global standards development influence, or affect U.S. industry interests in engaging in and promoting the international digital economy?

(3) What do you believe is the percentage of participation of relevant organizations or companies in the ITU-T study groups? What is the value of this participation in the ITU-T study groups? Does this participation meeting the needs of relevant organizations or companies?

(4) Is there a wide implementation of the ITU-T recommendations in the United States or elsewhere by relevant organizations or companies? Why or why not? Can you provide examples of these implementations, if any?

(5) The WTSAs-12 Action Plan (see <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/WTSAs16/WTSAs-12-Action-Plan.pdf>) identified issues that will be discussed during WTSAs-2016. Which of these issues are the most important to focus on in the upcoming WTSAs-2016? What positions should be taken with respect to these issues?

(6) Are the ITU-T work methods and/or rules of procedure effective? Why or why not? What, if any, modifications to ITU-T Resolutions and Recommendations (see <https://>

www.ntia.doc.gov/page/wtsa-12-resolutions-and-opinions) or to the ITU-T working methods or rules of procedure would you recommend to improve efficiency and effectiveness? Are there structural changes to the ITU-T that could make the organization more relevant?

(7) What are the most important international standardization public policy issues and topics? And why? In what areas or subjects do you believe the ITU-T has a particular role or expertise?

(8) Assuming the ITU-T study group structure remains as it is today, in which study groups and activities should NTIA prioritize its participation and why?

(9) How could cooperation and collaboration between ITU-T and other SDOs be strengthened? How could cooperation and collaboration among the three ITU sectors be strengthened?

(10) The ITU and its membership have identified a standardization gap between developed and developing countries and a need to bridge that gap to ensure greater participation by all countries in the work of the ITU-T. What is the best way to address this gap? Would ITU programs on this topic be better placed within the ITU-D or the ITU-T? What other steps can be taken to bridge this gap?

NTIA invites comment on the questions set forth in this Notice and Request for Public Comment as well as input on any other issues relevant to NTIA’s participation in the ITU-T that will assist NTIA in its consultations with the U.S. Department of State and other U.S. government agencies in preparation for WTSAs-2016.

Dated: May 12, 2016.

Lawrence E. Strickling,
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information.

[FR Doc. 2016-11609 Filed 5-16-16; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Determination Under the Textile and Apparel Commercial Availability Provision of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (“CAFTA-DR Agreement”)

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.
ACTION: Determination to add a product in unrestricted quantities to Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA-DR Agreement.

¹ See Department of State, *Notice of Meeting of the International Telecommunication Advisory Committee and Preparations for Upcoming International Communications and Information Policy Meetings*, Public Notice: 9399, 81 FR 847 (Jan. 7, 2016).

SUMMARY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (“CITA”) has determined that certain warp stretch woven rayon blend fabrics, as specified below, are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the CAFTA–DR countries. The product will be added to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR Agreement in unrestricted quantities.

DATES: Effective May 17, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maria Goodman, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–3651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON-LINE:

<http://web.ita.doc.gov/tacgi/CaftaReqTrack.nsf> under “Approved Requests,” Reference number: 199.2016.04.12. Fabric.GDLSKforTangTextiles.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: The CAFTA–DR Agreement; Section 203(o)(4) of the Dominican Republic–Central America–United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (“CAFTA–DR Implementation Act”), Public Law 109–53; the Statement of Administrative Action, accompanying the CAFTA–DR Implementation Act; and Presidential Proclamations 7987 (February 28, 2006) and 7996 (March 31, 2006).

Background: The CAFTA–DR Agreement provides a list in Annex 3.25 for fabrics, yarns, and fibers that the Parties to the CAFTA–DR Agreement have determined are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the territory of any Party. The CAFTA–DR Agreement provides that this list may be modified pursuant to Article 3.25.4 and 3.25.5, when the President of the United States determines that a fabric, yarn, or fiber is not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the territory of any Party. See Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR Agreement; see also section 203(o)(4)(C) of the CAFTA–DR Implementation Act.

The CAFTA–DR Implementation Act requires the President to establish procedures governing the submission of a request and providing opportunity for interested entities to submit comments and supporting evidence before a commercial availability determination is made. In Presidential Proclamations 7987 and 7996, the President delegated to CITA the authority under section 203(o)(4) of CAFTA–DR Implementation Act for modifying the Annex 3.25 list. Pursuant to this authority, on September 15, 2008, CITA published modified procedures it would follow in considering requests to modify the Annex 3.25 list of products determined to be not commercially available in the territory of any Party to CAFTA–DR

(*Modifications to Procedures for Considering Requests Under the Commercial Availability Provision of the Dominican Republic–Central America–United States Free Trade Agreement*, 73 FR 53200) (“CITA’s procedures”).

On April 12, 2016, the Chairman of CITA received a request for a Commercial Availability determination (“Request”) from Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman, & Klestadt, LLC, on behalf of Tang Textiles & Apparel, for certain warp stretch woven rayon blend fabrics. On April 14, 2016, in accordance with CITA’s procedures, CITA notified interested parties of the Request, which was posted on the dedicated Web site for CAFTA–DR Commercial Availability proceedings. In its notification, CITA advised that any Response with an Offer to Supply (“Response”) must be submitted by April 26, 2016, and any Rebuttal Comments to a Response must be submitted by May 2, 2016, in accordance with sections 6 and 7 of CITA’s procedures. No interested entity submitted a Response to the Request advising CITA of its objection to the Request and its ability to supply the subject product.

In accordance with section 203(o)(4)(C) of the CAFTA–DR Implementation Act, and section 8(c)(2) of CITA’s procedures, as no interested entity submitted a Response objecting to the Request and providing an offer to supply the subject product, CITA has determined to add the specified fabric to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR Agreement.

The subject product has been added to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR Agreement in unrestricted quantities. A revised list has been posted on the dedicated Web site for CAFTA–DR Commercial Availability proceedings.

Specifications: Certain Warp Stretch Woven Rayon Blend Fabrics

Fabric #1: Warp Stretch Woven Rayon/ Nylon/Spandex Fabric

HTS classifications: 5516.22.00, 5516.23.00, 5516.24.00

Fiber Content: Rayon: 67–80%; Nylon: 15–35%; Spandex: 2–6%

Yarn Configuration:

Warp—Nylon filament combined with Spandex filament;
Filling—Rayon staple
Yarn Denier: Nylon and Spandex of various deniers.

Width: Metric: 139–153cm; (English: 55–60 inches)

Weight: Metric: 220–315 grams per square meter

Thread Count (Density):

Metric: 30–74 ends per cm (warp) x 27–38 picks per cm (filling)
English: 76–185 ends per inch (warp) x 70–95 picks per inch (filling)

Weave type: Various weaves

Finish/Processing: Of yarns of different colors and/or piece dyed and/or printed.

Fabric # 2: Warp Stretch Woven Rayon/ Polyester/Nylon/Spandex Fabric

HTS classifications: 5407.10.00,

5407.92.20, 5407.93.20, 5407.94.20, 5516.22.00, 5516.23.00, 5516.24.00;

Fiber Content: Rayon: 30–70%;

Polyester: 20–52%; Nylon: 9–35%; Spandex: 2–6%

Yarn Configuration:

Warp—Nylon filament, Polyester filament & Spandex filament;
Filling—Rayon staple combined with Polyester filament
Yarn Denier: Nylon, Polyester and Spandex of various deniers.

Width: Metric: 139–153cm; (English: 55–60 inches)

Weight: Metric: 220–315 grams per square meter

Thread Count (Density):

Metric: 30–48 ends per cm (warp) x 27–40 picks per cm (filling)
English: 76–120 ends per inch (warp) x 70–100 picks per inch (filling)

Weave type: Various weaves

Finish/Processing: Of yarns of different colors and/or piece dyed and/or printed.

Joshua Teitelbaum,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 2016–11617 Filed 5–16–16; 8:45 am]

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BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Academic Research Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the announcement of a public meeting of the Academic Research Council (ARC or Council) of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Bureau). The notice also describes the functions of the Council. Notice of the meeting is permitted by section 8 of the ARC Charter. Specifically, section 8(d) of the ARC Charter states:

The Council will convene in person from time to time at the call of the Assistant Director or the Assistant Director’s designee, but at a minimum shall meet annually. Council members may also make additional