

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789790203321
Titolo	Preferential trade agreement policies for development : : a handbook / / Jean-Pierre Chauffour and Jean-Christophe Maur, editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : World Bank, , 2011
ISBN	0-8213-8644-1
Descrizione fisica	xx, 511 pages : illustrations, maps ; ; 28 cm
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Disciplina	382/.9091724
Soggetti	Tariff preferences - Developing countries Free trade - Developing countries Economic development - Developing countries Developing countries Commercial policy Developing countries Foreign economic relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; Foreword; Acknowledgments; About the Editors and Contributors; Abbreviations; Overview; 1 Beyond Market Access; 2 Landscape; 3 Economics; 4 North-South Preferential Trade Agreements; 5 Customs Unions; 6 Preferential Trade Agreements and Multilateral Liberalization; 7 Agriculture; 8 Preferential Rules of Origin; 9 Trade Remedy Provisions; 10 Product Standards; 11 TBT and SPS Measures, in Practice; 12 Services; 13 Labor Mobility; 14 Investment; 15 Trade Facilitation; 16 Competition Policy; 17 Government Procurement; 18 Intellectual Property Rights; 19 Environment; 20 Labor Rights 21 Human Rights22 Dispute Settlement; Index; Boxes; Figures; Tables
Sommario/riassunto	Economists have repeatedly warned against them, NGOs have fought them, and some governments have begrudgingly (at least in appearance) signed them. Yet, in the last twenty years the growth in number of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) has been unabated. Even more strikingly, their scope has broadened while their number was increasing. Deep integration provisions in PTAs have now become ubiquitous. Gaining market access or preserving existing preferences has remained an important motivation for acceding to PTAs. But with

the liberalization of trade around the world and the related diminishing size

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