

## **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

### **Support to the AU/NEPAD (Period of Report: July 2010 - June 2011)**

#### **AID FOR TRADE**

The 2010-2011 Aid-for-Trade Work Programme consolidates the progress achieved in the Aid-for-Trade initiative, and lays the groundwork for a Third Global Review – to be held on 18 and 19 July 2011 – which will focus on the monitoring and evaluation of Aid-for-Trade and reporting on outcomes and impacts.

The WTO is continuing to use its convening power to showcase regional integration processes in Africa. The cooperation efforts of all stakeholders (partner countries, donors, regional development banks, regional economic communities and international organizations) have ensured that trade is now firmly established as an integral part of the development dialogue. Developing countries' Aid-for-Trade needs and priorities are being identified and Aid for Trade is being routinely integrated into national, regional and multilateral development strategies.

An Expert Group Meeting and Workshop on Aid for Trade and Africa's Trading Capacity, organized by the UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 May-2 June 2010, discussed financial flows to Africa, the evaluation of Aid for Trade and how Aid for Trade can support regional integration and intra-African trade. The EAC High-Level Workshop on Aid for Trade held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 14 and 15 June 2010 reviewed and assessed the challenges faced by EAC countries in obtaining and utilizing Aid for Trade, and identified the needs at the sub-regional level for building productive capacities and assisting in crafting Aid-for-Trade provisions for an EAC Aid-for-Trade Strategy. An expert meeting organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Douala, Cameroon on 30 June-1 July 2010 served to spotlight the challenges faced by the Central African region and to give impetus to ongoing regional integration initiatives. The meeting agreed on a roadmap for an Aid-for-Trade review for Central Africa.

In order to strengthen private sector involvement in the Aid-for-Trade Initiative, and as a special session of the African Economic Conference 2010, the WTO co-hosted with the AfDB a meeting with African private sector officials which took place in Tunis, on 27 October 2010. A working group comprising the AfDB, the Investment Climate Facility, Ecobank, and the International Trade Centre (ITC) was established to develop a framework to take this issue forward. The working group is expected to further develop a platform for engaging the African private sector to participate in trade negotiations, and contribute to government policy formulation and implementation. The platform will enhance the business advocacy infrastructure in the form of an African Business Network which will serve to, *inter alia*, collect and exchange information on business opportunities, the legal and regulatory environment and on trade finance for use in trade policy making and trade negotiations.

To support Members in the process leading up to the Third Global Review, a number of regional training events were held to assist developing country members to complete the Aid-for-Trade self-assessment questionnaires and facilitate the preparation of Aid-for-Trade related case stories. The self-assessment questionnaires and case stories are key components of the Aid-for-Trade monitoring and evaluation exercise, and the information provided will inform the analysis of the impact of Aid for Trade on trade, development and poverty reduction and best practices in the effective delivery, implementation and evaluation of Aid for Trade. Training events included Libreville, Gabon from 6-8 October 2010 for Francophone Africa and in Johannesburg, South Africa on 16 and 17 November 2010 for Anglophone Africa, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The international community has continued to mobilize new Aid-for-Trade resources. Aid for Trade to Africa reached US\$13 billion in 2008, up from just over US\$10 billion in 2007. Also of note is the Declaration from the G-20 Seoul Summit held in November 2010 whereby leaders have committed to at least maintain, beyond 2011, Aid-for-Trade levels that reflect the average levels of the years 2006 to 2008.

WTO is a member of the UN-CEB Inter-agency Cluster on Productive Capacity and Trade which seeks to strengthen the UN response to the "Aid for Trade" initiative by coordinating the joint operations of a number of international organizations in the area of trade and capacity building, thereby enhancing efforts to help developing countries improve their abilities in governance and various economic activities that can lead to growth, jobs, and rising living standards. The WTO has supported the establishment and publication of the UN agency Trade Capacity Building Inter-Agency Resource Guide, the second edition of which provides an important contribution to the Aid-for-Trade initiative and a valuable resource for developing countries on the various providers of Aid for Trade world-wide.

## **ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK (EIF)**

### *Summary*

The EIF has made significant progress in 2010 and early 2011 with regard to the institutional set-up of the programme, project delivery and outreach. The global structures of the EIF Steering Committee and the EIF Board are now up and running. In addition, the 22 current donors to the multi-donor trust fund have provided contributions totalling approximately US\$120 million as of December 2010. The EIF Tier 2 project guidelines on supporting LDCs to build supply-side capacity to trade have now been finalized, and 31 Tier 1 projects (covering institutional capacity building and diagnostic trade integration studies or DTIS) have now been approved. A series of three EIF regional workshops have been delivered, and work is under way to develop a strong monitoring and evaluation framework, alongside a range of new communications activities.

### *EIF progress in 2010 – early 2011:*

As of January 2011, 31 Tier 1 projects have been approved. This includes 21 multi-year support to National Implementation Arrangements (NIA) Tier 1 projects and 7 pre-DTIS projects approved as well as 3 DTIS validated. 15 of the 21 projects were submitted by African LDCs including: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. Among the Tier 1 projects in the pipeline, 12 are from African LDCs. Work has also started on Tier 2, with approximately twenty projects in various stages of development for submission in 2011 (the great majority in Africa). To date, 42 DTIS and 3 DTIS updates have been validated with another 3 DTIS and several updates in the pipeline. Of the 42 validated DTIS, 31 are from African LDCs.

The EIF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework has made real progress, with a final Programme Log-frame due in 2011. Eleven EIF countries (the majority of which were African countries) have also undergone capacity building on M&E, and additional expertise is being recruited to the EIF Executive Secretariat to further support these efforts.

As part of the EIF capacity-building programme, three regional workshops have been held in 2010 for Pacific, Asian and West and Central African countries, bringing together EIF stakeholders to drive forward the programme with a focus on sharing experiences and lessons learned and developing new project proposals. The final Eastern and Southern Africa regional workshop is scheduled for February 2011.

EIF communications in 2010 have worked to boost the visibility of the programme through press, publicity and outreach activities and will continue to focus on communicating what works and results achieved. A new EIF website [www.enhancedif.org](http://www.enhancedif.org) was launched in English and French with

additional EIF discussion fora planned in 2011 together with the recruitment of a new communications team in the Executive Secretariat.

The EIF held two successful high-level events at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, 9-13 May in Istanbul: a joint Special Event with the WTO as well as a High-level Ministerial lunch. The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011 - 2020 coming out of the Conference refers to the EIF. At the Conference, a host of high-level speakers mentioned the EIF as a valuable mechanism for LDCs' development.

#### *Upcoming in 2011*

- Completion of the EIF Five-Year Strategic Plan including a new communication strategy
- Operationalization of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Programme Log-frame
- Finalization of the Compendium of working documents: the user's guide to the EIF
- Further roll-out of the EIF capacity-building programme starting with project development and mainstreaming modules
- High-level EIF event at the Third Global Aid for Trade Review, 18-19 July in Geneva

### **GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Technical Assistance, whether through the regular Technical Assistance Plan (TA Plan), or as part of multi-agency arrangements such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework or the Aid for Trade Initiative (see above), remains at the core of WTO's assistance to Africa. The WTO's technical cooperation programme focuses on building human and institutional capacity related to multilateral trade issues.

The WTO is currently implementing the 2010-2011 TA Plan. At the core of this TA Plan is the progressive learning approach intended to make each TA activity part of a long term building block towards a broader goal. With this new approach, the WTO hopes to better support the long term strengthening of human and institutional capacity of African countries with the view to facilitating their integration into the multilateral trading system. In addition, the WTO continues to strengthen the existing cooperation with regional partners. A key objective in this cooperation is to ensure that in designing TRTA activities, particular national and regional dynamics are incorporated to ensure relevance and consistency with emerging priorities. Thus, the WTO has arrangements with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), various sub-regional bodies such as COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, CEMAC, as well as academic partnership arrangements with several African universities on training African trade policy officials and negotiators, and assisting the process of institutional trade capacity building in African countries.

A major initiative that was launched in 2010 was the introduction of the concept of results-based management (RBM) in the design, management and delivery of WTO's trade capacity building programmes. It is a key issue in the context of the effectiveness of technical assistance, with much consideration being given to indicators that could be applied to measure trade performance. The conceptual framework for the implementation of RBM in WTO programmes will be finalized in 2011.

Like in previous years, Africa will receive the largest share of TA activities during this period, both at the national and regional level. As a proportion of the technical assistance activities organised by the WTO, approximately 40 per cent of national activities in the period July 2010 to April 2011, will be conducted in African countries, as will approximately 30 per cent of regional activities. It can be reasonably foreseen that this trend will continue as Africa remains the most challenged continent in terms of trade capacity.

Since July 2010, Africa has already benefited from a number of national and regional activities. These activities covered the whole range of the WTO's work programme. More activities are scheduled for the period up to 30 April. A significant number of the activities will involve subjects of

interest in the on-going Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations. These include activities in agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA), trade in services, trade facilitation, and development issues, etc.

African countries will also continue to benefit from various WTO standard training activities including the newly launched Advanced Trade Policy Course (TPC) for government officials, which is currently underway and has 6 participants from Africa (out of a total of 20 world-wide); the regional three-month trade policy courses (RTPC), to be held separately for English-speaking Africa and French-speaking Africa before the end of the year, in Manzini, Swaziland, and Cotonou, Benin, respectively.

Technical assistance activities will also continue to be provided, in response to the specific needs of the nine acceding African countries (Algeria, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Libya, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, and Sudan).

Further, Reference Centres would continue to be upgraded in 2011, to meet the standard required for effective use in e-training: upgrading obsolete materials, training the participants in the efficient use of the WTO websites, databases and trade-related software. In this regard, a number of missions to African countries are already scheduled for the period up to April 2011. Currently, out of about 150 Reference Centres established/upgraded so far, approximately half are in Africa.

Increased Secretariat support is also provided to the WTO African Group in Geneva, which has become one of the main pillars for the formulation of trade policy for African countries.

WTO technical cooperation also extends to providing support for those Members who do not have physical representation in Geneva, including the preparation of regular non-resident Member briefing notes, and the holding of a bi-annual week of briefings known as "Geneva Week". The first Geneva Week for 2011 is scheduled to be held before the end of the first half of 2011.

Africa continues to be major beneficiaries of several other initiatives. For example, the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP), a programme designed to expose officials to the day-to-day working of the WTO for a ten month period gives Africa and LDCs priority consideration. This has allowed African officials to further broaden their exposure to the day- to-day work of the WTO, including the identification of the TRTA needs of their countries. For 2011, the NTP programme, which will commence on 10 February, will have officials from 5 African countries, out of the 10 admitted, while the Mission Internship programme, for the first 6 months of 2011, has 6 out of the 9 candidates from Africa.