

Sharing experiences on mobilizing resources towards the implementation of the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda

Overview

- Trade as a mobilizer of resources
 - Trade as an engine for growth
 - Generating domestic resources through trade
 - Accompanying policies
 - Case story – Graduating LDCs and WTO acceded members
- WTO experience with delivering on the SDGs
 - Organizing to implement Agenda 2030
 - Delivering on the SDG targets

Yonov Frederick Agah
WTO Deputy Director-General



Trade as an engine for growth

- **Trade** has proven to be an engine for development and poverty reduction by **boosting growth**.
- Over the past 15 years accelerated economic growth in developing countries has resulted in **narrowing of the income gap between** developing and developed countries.
- This growth explosion has greatly contributed to an **unprecedented reduction of poverty**.
- Trade is recognized as an engine for **inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction** that contributes to the promotion of sustainable development both by the Agenda 2030 and the Addis Agenda.



Trade as domestic resource generator

- Trade and economic growth enhances a country's **income generating capacity**, which is one of the essential prerequisites for achieving sustainable development.
- International trade can be an important **source of finance** to both the private sector and the public sector in developing countries.
- By **increasing growth** trade can also make available the necessary **resources** to implement other **development targets in the social and environmental** sphere.
- But this needs to be **accompanied** by a host of **other policies** to ensure that trade is **inclusive**, that it benefits the largest possible sections of the population and that those who may be losing out are provided assistance to **adjust**.



The role of accompanying policies

- There is **not a 'one size fits all'** recipe, approaches need to be tailored to a **country's specific situation** and **mainstreamed** into development policy objectives
- Some **policies** that can play an important role include, for example:
 - **Reducing trade costs** to ensure more can participate in trade
 - **Building capacity** for trade and production, including through Aid for Trade
 - **Improving connectivity** - both physical and digital
 - Improving the **business environment**
 - More active **labour market** policies
 - The provision of **support for workers** and adjustment
 - **Education** policies to equip people with the right skills to participate in an information-driven global economy
 - Mainstream **gender issues** and empower women economically
 - Ensure **access to finance**, including trade finance

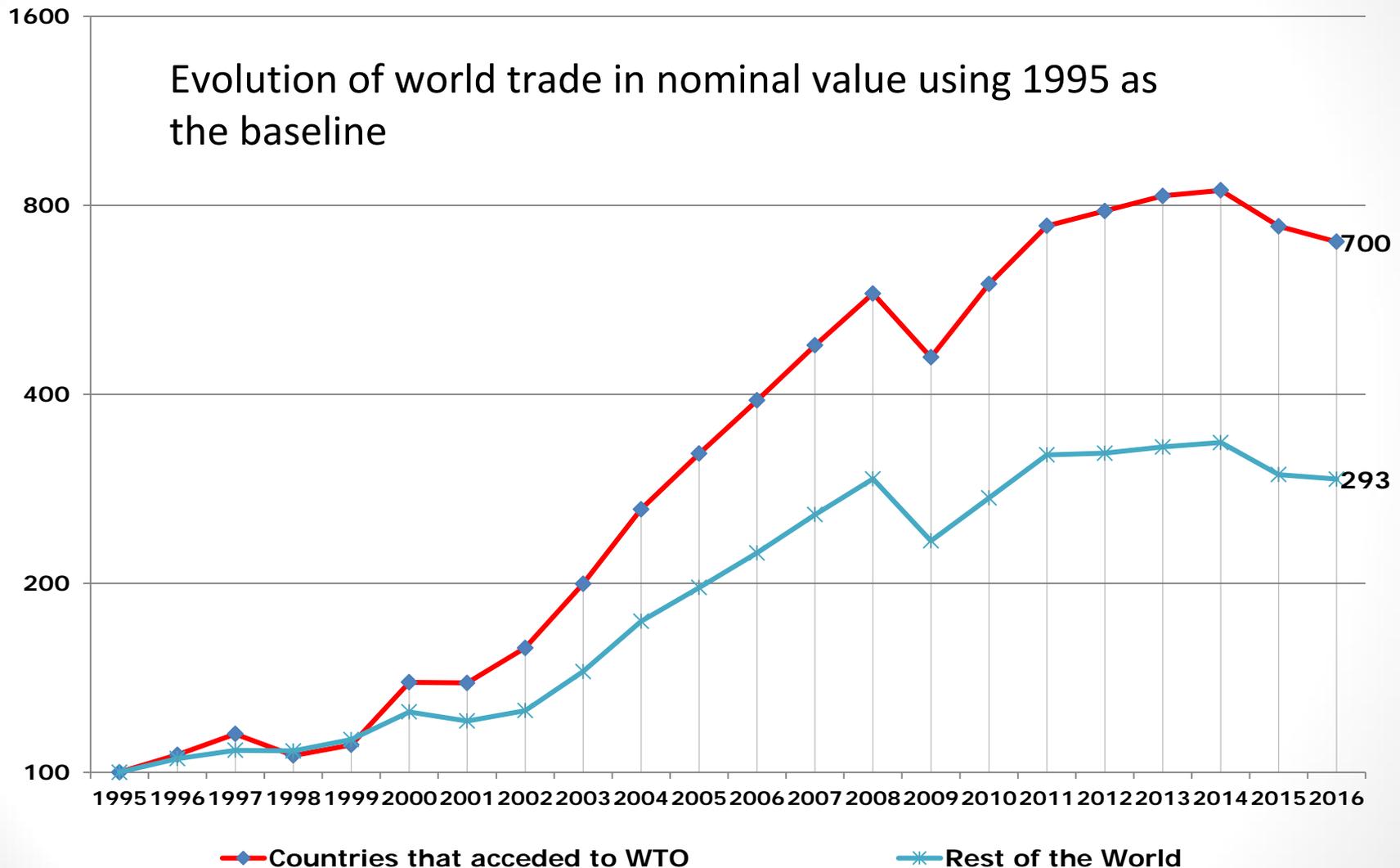


Case Story – graduating LDCs and Countries that acceded to WTO

- Countries that have integrated into the multilateral trading system by following the right mix of policies were able to achieve:
 - Faster **trade and GDP growth**
 - More **resilience** in crises
 - Increased **competitiveness** and export **diversification**
 - Greater **attractiveness** to **FDI**
- Integration in the multilateral trading system has provided these countries with
 - Access to **new markets**
 - Access to **new technologies**
 - Access to **new investment**
- An example of success are countries that **acceded to the WTO** and the **graduating LDCs**.



Evidence: Trade performance of acceded members



Organizing to implement Agenda 2030 and Addis Agenda

- Far-reaching **multilateral co-operation** is important and should be enhanced as trade measures alone will not address challenges of implementing Agenda 2030
- WTO has worked with the **World Bank** and **IMF** to produce publications on the role of trade in ending poverty and making trade an engine of growth for all. We also worked on a report with the **ILO** that looks at the relationship between technology, trade and skills in today's economy and with **FAO** on trade and food standards.
- WTO also works closely with **UNCTAD** and **ITC**, in what has been called the **Geneva Trade Hub**, to provide support to the various UN agencies that have been tasked with the follow-up and implementation of the Agenda 2030.
- The WTO has also taken internal steps to better follow and coordinate work on the SDGs with the creation of an **in-house task force**.
- This WTO task force is working on a publication on **Mainstreaming Trade in the SDGs** which will hopefully be launched early next year.

WTO experience with delivering on SDG targets

WTO has already started to deliver in several of the SDG targets where our work has been specifically mentioned.

- **SDG:2** Zero Hunger. Target 2.b of this Goal urges the reduction of distortions in agricultural markets. The WTO's Export Competition in Agriculture Decision reached at the Nairobi Ministerial Conference delivers on this target by prohibiting the use of export subsidies and other measures of equivalent effect. We are working to further deliver on this target at MC11.
- **SDG:3** Good Health. At the beginning of the year an amendment to the WTO TRIPs Agreement entered into force that will make it easier for developing countries to have a secure legal pathway to access affordable medicines in line with target 3.b.
- **SDG:14** Life Below Water. WTO negotiations to eliminate subsidies that cause overfishing and overcapacity are very advanced and an outcome in this area at MC11 is a possibility. This would deliver on target 14.6 of this goal.

