

CONCEPT NOTE

2024 Global Review of Aid for Trade

Session on

Forging pathways to prosperity in LLDCs: mainstreaming trade in development programmes and the role of Aid for Trade

Session co-organizers: Botswana, Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and UN-Office of the High Representative for LDC, LLDS and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)

Date: 26 June 2024

Time: 12:00 – 13:00

Venue: Geneva, World Trade Organization, Room S2

Abstract

A core challenge for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) is that their geographies impose pathways to trade that are complex and costly. LLDCs' trade must overcome longer routes to markets that transit through neighbouring countries and cumbersome border requirements. Many of the distinct challenges to LLDCs' development derive from this fundamental difficulty. The LLDCs account for 7% of the world's population, but just 1.1% of world trade. In recognition of this, the Programme of Action for the LLDCs sets out priority actions including on trade, trade facilitation, structural transformation and regional integration. It also emphasizes mainstreaming the priorities of the Programme of Action in national development programmes.

At this pivotal point at the development of the new Programme of Action for LLDCs, the session considers the shapes and forms of Aid for Trade, as well as the partnerships, initiatives and projects, needed for its successful implementation. The event seeks to identify concrete actions, policy recommendations, and innovative approaches to mainstream trade in national development plans and promote inclusive and sustainable trade-led growth. By prioritizing trade integration and coherence, LLDCs can unlock their full trade potential and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Guiding questions

1. How can the barriers of being landlocked be more effectively overcome to seize trade as a powerful tool for development in LLDCs?
2. How can Aid for Trade be more effectively utilized to contribute to the successful implementation of the new Programme of Action of Landlocked Developing Countries?
3. How should LLDCs, transit countries, and international institutions partner to collaboratively mainstream Trade?

4. What role can Aid for Trade play in supporting LLDCs to mainstream trade in their development agenda.

Indicative programme

Speakers

1. Dr. Athaliah Molokomme, *Ambassador of Botswana to the WTO, Chair of the Group of LLDCs*
2. Ms. Rabab Fatima, *United Nations Under Secretary General and High Representative of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS*
3. Ms. Maria Dimitriadou, *Special Representative to the UN and the WTO, World Bank Group*
4. Mr. Taufiqur Rahman, *Director Development Division, WTO*

Interactive discussion