



5 MAY 2015

**5TH GLOBAL REVIEW OF AID FOR TRADE
"REDUCING TRADE COSTS FOR INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH"**

30 JUNE – 2 JULY 2015

DRAFT AGENDA

High trade costs act as a brake on the trade integration of many developing countries, and in particular least-developed countries. To release the brake and deliver the inclusive, sustainable growth envisioned by the UN's emerging Post-2015 Development Agenda, concerted action is needed. This year's Global Review will analyse actions already undertaken by developing countries, regional communities and their development partners to reduce trade costs and will survey the extent of the challenge remaining, and how it can be addressed in the context of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

One specific action that the trade and development community can take to address high trade costs is to ensure the timely implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). OECD figures suggest that support for trade facilitation is growing and more funding is becoming available. Many developing countries, however, remain concerned that they will not be able to access support to implement the TFA. The Review will survey in detail lessons from past and on-going support for border and customs modernization efforts, with the aim of ensuring that support for the TFA is effective and sustained, including the support provided through the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility.

The 5th Global Review high-level meeting offers the opportunity to recommit the trade and development community to continued action by developing countries and their development partners to reduce trade costs and support other Aid-for-Trade objectives, so affirming the role of trade in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and Financing for Development.

PLENARY SESSIONS

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE	
10.00-11.30	<p>Plenary session 1: Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth (Room CR)</p> <p>High trade costs effectively price many developing countries out of global markets, not just with respect to their exports, but also access to imports too. As a result, comparative advantages in merchandise goods may remain unexploited and the economic growth possibilities offered by services' trade are untapped. The challenge of reducing trade costs and the contribution that this can make to inclusive, sustainable growth – a concept that lies at the heart of proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – is the central theme of this year's Aid for Trade at a Glance publication. The session will discuss how action on reducing trade costs can contribute to the UN's emerging Post-2015 Development Agenda, together with Financing for Development.</p>
11.30-13.00	<p>Plenary session 2: Supporting Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (Room CR)</p> <p>The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) contains a range of measures to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. These technical measures impose obligations on WTO members to increase transparency, to implement streamlined and modernized border procedures and control techniques, and to improve governance through disciplines on rule and decision-making processes. Various economic studies suggest that the TFA will have important trade cost reduction effects, with savings accruing to developing countries.</p> <p>One feature that marks out the TFA is the implementation flexibility that it accords to WTO members. Section II of the TFA includes various special and differential treatment obligations for developing country and least developed country members, including transition periods and the acquisition of implementation capacity through the provision of assistance and support for capacity building. Commitments for customs and border modernization support reported to the OECD reached some US\$667 million in 2013. Some US\$1.9 billion has been disbursed in trade facilitation assistance from 2006-2013. What has this support achieved and what lessons can be learnt for Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation, notably for the operation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility? These are two of the issues that will be explored in this plenary session.</p>

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE13.30-
15.00**Plenary session 3: Effective Implementation of SPS Measures to Facilitate Safe Trade (Room D)**

Border authorities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements and some international standards setting bodies have expressed concerns that the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) could erode their ability to protect animal, plant and human health from risks arising from pests and diseases associated with the importation of food and plant products.

Recent research initiated by the Standards and Trade Development Facility suggests that countries can make progress in reducing SPS trade transaction costs, while simultaneously strengthening or reinforcing the protection of human, animal and plant health, through proper implementation of the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement and implementation of measures in the TFA.

The aim of this plenary session is to debate the issue of how trade facilitation can be married with robust, science- and risk-based SPS controls, discussing implementation experiences and the role Aid for Trade can play in ensuring that these twin goals can be met.

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE				
15.00-17.00	<p>Parallel plenary session 4: The Role of Trade Facilitation in Supporting Africa's Regional Integration Agenda (Room D)</p>	<p>Parallel plenary session 5: Reducing Trade Costs in Asia and the Pacific (Room E)</p>	<p>Parallel plenary session 6: Reducing Trade Costs in Central America through Trade Facilitation (Room W)</p>	<p>Parallel plenary session 7: Reducing Trade Costs for Islamic Development Bank Members (Room CR)</p>
	<p><i>This plenary session is organized jointly with the African Union, the African Development Bank, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa</i></p>	<p><i>This plenary session is organized jointly with the Asian Development Bank</i></p>	<p><i>This plenary session is organized jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank and SIECA</i></p>	<p><i>This plenary session is organized by the Islamic Development Bank</i></p>
	<p>This regionally focused plenary session will discuss the contribution that trade facilitation can make to the implementation of Africa's regional integration, notably in the context of the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). Trade facilitation can help promote effective regional integration in Africa, thereby concretely reaping the trade and development gains which the establishment of the CFTA promises. This aspect is particularly critical for landlocked countries that stand to gain considerably from the reduction in trade-related costs, as explicitly acknowledged in the Vienna Programme of Action.</p>	<p>This regionally focused plenary session will focus on the presentation of a report examining trade costs in the Asia-Pacific region which looks in detail at the specific challenges faced by exporters in the Pacific region due to their distance to markets. The session will focus on strategies to overcome the issue of high regional trade costs, both from a national and regional perspective</p>	<p>This regionally focused session will address trade facilitation in Central America, examining how it fits with the region's trade and economic agenda, policies and measures to reduce the cost of trade, the needs of the private sector and stakeholder support to the integration process. Key questions to be discussed include: What lessons can be learnt from on-going initiatives? What is the role of public-private partnerships? What is the role of bilateral and South-South cooperation in ensuring successful trade facilitation interventions?</p>	<p>This regionally focused session will address efforts to reduce the cost of trade among OIC member states in the context of a dynamic picture, characterized by continued high rates of growth of some IDB members, on-going economic instability among others, and significant fiscal challenges arising from slowing commodity prices for many. The issue of trade facilitation will be examined against this background, with particular attention given to the examples of global excellence in transport and logistics in some IDB member states and the challenges arising from cumbersome and time-consuming border procedures found elsewhere. The challenge of raising standards across IDB members to equal those of the highest performers, often world leaders in their areas, will be discussed.</p>

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE17.00-
18.00**Plenary session 8: Access to Cooperation for Small and Vulnerable Economies through the Aid-for-Trade Initiative (Room W)**

Many small economies face specific challenges in their participation in world trade. Low economies of scale and limited natural and human resources are further exacerbated by high transport costs. Physical isolation and geographical distance to markets are just two of the explanatory reasons for high trade costs, a situation made worse by low volumes of trade – a disincentive for commercial traders and transport companies.

Recent WTO research on the participation of small economies in global value chains, showed that by attracting more investment, reducing trade costs through specialization and improving labour skills, small economies can in fact add more value to their production processes in such diverse sectors as fish, textiles and tourism services.

A range of bilateral and multilateral agencies are providing Aid-for-Trade support to small economies in the Pacific, African, and Caribbean/Latin American regions. Donor and partner experiences have thus far been varied and this session will examine the positive and negative outcomes emerging from efforts to help small economies gain more from trade.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY9.00-
10.30**Plenary session 9: WTO at 20: Looking Back, Looking Ahead. What Future for Trade and Development? (Room CR)**

In 2015, the WTO marks its [20th anniversary](#). The system of transparent, multilaterally-agreed rules that the WTO embodies has made a major contribution to the strength and stability of the global economy. The WTO has helped to boost trade growth and resolve numerous trade disputes. Over the past 20 years, global trade in goods has nearly quadrupled, reaching US\$19 trillion in 2013 compared with US\$5 trillion in 1996. Not only has world trade expanded on average by 7.6% annually in the period 1995-2015, but the developing world's share of global trade has also grown to reach almost half. The WTO's 2014 [World Trade Report](#) termed the rise of the developing world as the most significant economic event of our time. The authors noted that "partly because of the shift to more outward-looking economic policies, partly because of the impact of new transport and communications technologies, and partly because the world economy is more open than ever before, emerging economies have been able to harness globalization to achieve unheard-of rates of economic growth – with 11 economies, representing half the world's population, growing collectively at over 6 per cent a year since 2000".

The recent slowdown in global trade growth, the on-going challenge of concluding the Doha Development Agenda and rise of regionalism are among the challenges world trade and the World Trade Organization now face. Among developing countries, while many have seen their trade growth go hand-in-hand with economic growth and poverty alleviation, others continue to face the same trade-related infrastructure and supply-side constraints that motivated Ministers to launch the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in 2005 - and to reconfirm their commitment to it at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013. The aim of this session is to survey what has been achieved on trade and development since the WTO's creation and to look forward to the challenges that lie ahead, examining the role of Aid for Trade in addressing these issues.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY	
10.30-12.00	<p>Plenary session 10: Reducing Trade Costs in South-South Trade (Room CR)</p> <p>South-South cooperation is an established feature of the Aid-for-Trade landscape. A growing range of actors are engaging in this area, and new institutions are emerging. One distinguishing feature of much South-South cooperation is a focus on infrastructure development and upgrading – addressing a constraint that developing countries consistently rank as highest among the factors limiting their participation in global trade.</p> <p>Twenty years ago South-South trade accounted for approximately 10% of world trade; today this figure is up to 30%. Strong growth rates in emerging economies are keeping South-South trade flows dynamic. Developing economies account for over half of global foreign direct investment flows – with an increasing portion of that investment emanating in the south. As such, it is not just South-South actors that are seeking to tap into this growth sector of global trade.</p> <p>The aim of this session is to examine the opportunity for economic transformation in the context of the UN's emerging Post-2015 Development Agenda offered by South-South trade and how action to address high trade costs can help promote this economic opportunity. The session will include presentation of a Confederation of Indian Industry report examining business engagement in South-South cooperation as a positive way to catalyse investment-led trade from emerging economies.</p>
12.00-13.00	<p>Plenary session 11: The EIF Changes: Launch of the Programme's Phase 2 (2016-2022) (Room CR)</p> <p>The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) – the only Aid-for-Trade programme with an exclusive focus on LDCs – recently underwent a comprehensive evaluation of its first phase (2009-2015). The findings confirmed the EIF's continued relevance to LDCs' trade and development priorities, indicated that results are showing good signs of sustainability, and highlighted areas to further strengthen efficiency, effectiveness, ownership and sustainability of the programme. Following the evaluation recommendations, the EIF partnership approved a second phase of the programme (2016-2022) and started an inclusive reform process which culminated in the organization of the EIF Global Platform, where nearly 250 EIF practitioners from LDCs, donors and partner agencies convened in Geneva and agreed on the proposed improvements. During the launch event at the Global Review, the new EIF programme framework will be presented to the Aid-for-Trade community.</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY	
13.00-14.30	<p>Plenary session 12: Electronic Commerce and the Aid-for-Trade Initiative (Room W)</p> <p>UNCTAD's latest Information Economy Report highlights that some of the greatest dynamism in electronic commerce can be found in developing countries. Research by eBay suggests that barriers to trading across distance are up to 94% lower for developing countries via electronic market places, as compared to traditional markets. Their research documents the rise of the "micro-multinational", with higher survival rates than their offline peers and reaching high numbers of export markets from an early stage in their life.</p> <p>Yet the opportunities offered by e-commerce remain largely untapped. Many small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remain unable to access reliable network services. In the absence of mobile money platforms or postal or parcel delivery services, many SMEs in developing countries find it difficult to make an online presence work for them. Some have suggested the need for an Aid for E-trade initiative to accelerate the global ecommerce revolution. This session will examine these questions and consider what more can be done to promote aid, investment, technology and knowledge transfer, in what is emerging as a powerful tool for the integration of small firms in developing countries to the trading system.</p>
15.00-16.30	<p>Plenary session 13: Reducing Trade Costs for LDCs' Merchandise Trade Development (Room CR)</p> <p>Lowering trade transaction costs can result in a significant improvement in a country's ability to compete effectively in the global economy. Export/border procedures as well as transport infrastructure were identified as the most important sources of trade costs for the export of merchandise goods by the 27 least developed countries that replied to the 2015 Aid-for-Trade self-assessment monitoring questionnaire. The comparison of transaction costs between LDCs and other WTO members confirm that LDCs face a comparative disadvantage with regard to cost of exporting merchandise. In addition, transport bottlenecks and certain non-tariff measures undermine the potential of LDCs to enter value chains. This session will examine the issue of trade costs in LDCs from the perspective of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation adopted by Members at Bali in 2013. In addition, the Bali decisions will be examined, particularly through a sector lens, identifying those issues that constrain producers and investors from taking advantage of market access schemes.</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY16.30-
18.00**Plenary session 14: Reducing Trade Costs for LDCs' Services Trade Development (Room CR)**

Relative to merchandise goods, services have received less attention from economists and policymakers. This is starting to change. Increasingly, the potential of the services sector as a driver of economic growth in developing countries is being recognised. Additionally, services trade can play an important role for sustainable development, including poverty reduction and economic empowerment of women; key objectives in the UN's emerging Post-2015 Development Agenda. A rapidly advancing body of research illustrates the point that in addition to customary market access barriers, issues such as network infrastructure and domestic regulation add significantly to trade costs for service suppliers. An important step to realizing the untapped potential of services was taken in February 2015 at the high-level meeting of the WTO Services Council to operationalize the LDC Services Waiver. The meeting sent a clear indication of the willingness of the trading partners of LDCs to provide preferences to LDC services and service suppliers. Against this backdrop, this session will highlight the opportunities for LDCs to penetrate commercial services markets by increasing supply side capacity and addressing barriers to services trade. Based on concrete examples, the session will focus on some of the key challenges faced by LDC-based companies and explore possible services trade facilitating solutions as well as support by investors and aid for trade to enable steady growth of services sectors and improve export performance of LDCs to advance sustainable development objectives.

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 2 JULY	
9.00-10.30	<p>Plenary session 15: Reducing Trade Costs in the Cotton Value Chain (Room W)</p> <p>This plenary session will examine the issue of trade costs from a sectoral perspective, with a specific focus on the cotton value chain. High trade costs erode the competitiveness of low-income suppliers. Discussions and negotiations at WTO since the "Sectoral Initiative for the Cotton Sector" was submitted in 2003 have highlighted that the cotton sector is a driver of economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries, and particularly in LDCs. Cotton trade also has a role to play in economic empowerment of women. Research points to a range of issues that drive up transport costs for cotton suppliers, such as transport infrastructure failings, transit regimes and customs documentation issues. The aim of this session is to examine the issue of trade costs for cotton exports, analyse how LDCs can identify priority areas for growth, the barriers they may face in building capacity in these areas, and how to attract the support of development partners and investors to enhance export performance and add value in the cotton chain.</p>
10.30-12.00	<p>Plenary session 16: Trade and Gender: Empowering Women through Inclusive Value Chains (Room W)</p> <p>Economic research from a range of sources suggests that women's earnings drive poverty reduction. Women have a higher propensity to use their earnings and increased bargaining power to buy goods and services that improve family welfare, thus creating a virtuous cycle: female spending supports the development of human capital, which in turn fuels contemporaneous economic growth. The session will help provide a better understanding of the importance of integrating women into value chains, the key drivers for successfully doing so, and stimulate discussions about actions the Aid-for-Trade community is taking to improve the current situation.</p> <p>The session will also examine the role of women in trade – a subject highlighted by many of the case stories received in the 2011 Aid-for-Trade monitoring exercise. Women produce products, transport goods across borders, manage and own trading firms, or are employed to work in them. However, women's potential in trade is often held back by the many constraints they face, including barriers to trade.</p>

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 2 JULY	
12.00-13.30	<p>Plenary session 17: Reducing Trade Costs and the Aid-for-Trade Results Agenda: Lessons from Recent Evaluations (Room W)</p> <p>The Inter-American Development Bank is at the forefront of using results-based management approaches to Aid-for-Trade interventions in the Americas to monitor the effectiveness of its programmes in real time. The Enhanced Integrated Framework, the International Trade Centre, the Standards and Trade Development Facility, the World Bank Group's Trade Facilitation Facility, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, have all been independently evaluated since the last Global Review in 2013. Uganda's Economic Policy Research Centre has also conducted its own research looking at the impact of Aid-for-Trade on the country's trade performance.</p> <p>A variety of different evaluation techniques are now in place and experience is growing with regard to the strengths and shortcomings of different methods. The aim of this panel is to debate these different techniques, sharing key outcomes and lessons from recent evaluations and to outline how these have informed programme strategy decisions. The speakers will also reflect on lessons for how maximum value can be secured from future large-scale evaluations of Aid-for-Trade programmes. The discussion should contribute to an improved understanding of the evaluation and its role in ensuring efficient and effective Aid-for-Trade delivery.</p>
15.00-17.00	<p>Plenary session 18: Closing Plenary Session (Room CR)</p> <p>The plenary session will provide an opportunity for Members and Observers to make formal statements on the theme of reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth and to offer views on the future of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative.</p>

SIDE EVENTS¹

Side events are open to all participants unless otherwise indicated

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE			
13.30-15.00	<p>Parallel side event 1: Lessons from Natural Disasters and Other Humanitarian Emergencies on the Role of Trade in Relief and Reconstruction</p> <p>Joint IFRC-World Bank Group-WTO</p> <p>The World Bank Group has estimated that Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will lose at least US\$1.6 billion in forgone economic growth in 2015 as a result of the ebola outbreak. Research by the Commonwealth Secretariat has highlighted how the trade effects of this crisis has spread well beyond the three ebola affected countries due to land border closures and cargo controls. Recent natural disasters highlight the role that trade can play in both relief and reconstruction – and how the same trade-related infrastructure and supply-side capacity constraints that hamper developing country participation in commercial trade can also constrain relief and reconstruction. The aim of this side event will be to examine the role of trade in relief and reconstruction.</p>	<p>Parallel side event 2: Mombasa: One Port, 200 Million People</p> <p>Denmark</p> <p>The port of Mombasa is the busiest container terminal in East Africa. It is also the gateway for East Africa where the Northern Corridor links the 200 million people of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan to the world. Initiatives along the Northern Corridor and to upgrade the Port of Mombasa are helping reduce trade costs and delivery times, not just at the port, but for small firms along the Corridor. This side event will explore how development finance is being used to leverage private investment for the benefit of the region as a whole, and will discuss the successes, and also challenges ahead, both for the Port of Mombasa and for East Africa more generally.</p>	<p>Parallel side event 3: Joining Forces to Reduce Trade Costs for Inclusive Sustainable Growth</p> <p>Joint ITC-OECD-WEF</p> <p>This side event will discuss how to strengthen the links between the private and public sector and how private and public finance can best be used to promote private sector development. Building on public and private sector experiences in reducing trade costs, the side event will identify ways for enhancing the dialogue between business and donors aimed at strengthening the contribution of SMEs to inclusive, sustainable growth through using development finance to leverage private investment.</p>

¹ Please note that the descriptive texts have been supplied by side event organizers.

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE		
17.00-18.30	Parallel side event 4: Reducing Cargo Costs in Air Transport - Giving the Bali TFA Deal Wings	Parallel side event 5: Aid for Trade and Intra- and Inter-Regional Trade Cooperation in French-speaking countries: Experiences and Perspectives Central Africa-Asia-West Africa
	Joint IATA-GEA	Joint OIF-CEEAC-CEMAC-ECOWAS
	<p>This side event will set out the analysis undertaken by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Global Express Association (GEA) in respect to the potential positive impact of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on air cargo specifically focusing on, reduced transport costs, increased gross domestic product and easier access to global markets for LDC's and developing countries. A real Aid-for-Trade Public-Private Partnership air freight example setting out clear beneficial outcomes will be showcased. The event will present IATA-developed capacity building tools to support the TFA and will set out IATA's track record in countries where these have been put in place. It will also seek to build coalitions between IATA and other international development organizations and states to put in place the aforementioned tools to support TFA implementation.</p>	<p>The side event will aim at sharing experiences in intra-and inter-regional trade promotion, evaluate the results obtained from the point of view of beneficiaries and evaluate the experience of promoting trade between Africa-Asia and Europe.</p>

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE	
TBC	Side event 6: Ceremony to Confer Order of the Jaguar Award (SIECA) <u>By invitation only.</u>
18.30-20.00	<p>Side event 7: Brewing Development II (Gallery/Terrace new building)</p> <p>Worldwide Brewing Alliance</p> <p>This high-level social event is intended to bring participants from the trade and development communities together for an informal exchange with the Worldwide Brewing Alliance and the four major global brewers (SABMiller, Anheuser-Busch InBev, Carlsberg and Heineken) regarding brewers' efforts to reduce trade costs in developing countries through investments in value chains. Participants will be able to sample beers from a range of markets, including from developing countries. Reports, brochures, and videos demonstrating brewers' investments in value chains, and in emerging economies in particular, will be made available to showcase the positive contribution of the brewing industry to economic development.</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY		
9.00-10.30	<p>Side event 8: Trade-Related Costs in Agricultural Commodity Markets: Donor Perspectives and Priorities</p> <p>Global Donor Platform for Rural Development</p> <p>Trade is considered to be an engine for economic growth and development, with the medium-term perspective for developing countries to transition from aid dependency towards sustainable development based on expanded trade with countries inside and outside the respective regions. Aid for Trade aims to support this process by removing constraints whilst promoting the inclusiveness and sustainability of growth aimed for in the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda. Donor agencies increasingly align trade policies and development objectives based on the view that trade in agricultural commodities has the greatest impact on poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth in the rural areas of developing countries. Trade in agricultural produce to achieve wider development objectives such as food security is identified as a trade policy priority of many countries. However, trade and market access for agricultural commodities face particular challenges in terms of supply and value chain development, infrastructure and product standards next to many technical trade barriers. Many countries, particularly in Africa, need to decide which markets to supply with which products. Such decisions determine the application or use of the various opportunities and instruments which the trade regime and the international community offer under the umbrella of Aid for Trade and trade agreements such as the European Partnership Agreements and others. The side event aims to present and discuss donor perspectives and priorities in supporting the trade agenda of developing countries in the specific case of agricultural commodities – how can trade costs be reduced by smart upfront investments to establish a sound trade system.</p>	<p>Parallel side event 9: Public-Private Dialogue in Supply Chain Management: How to Foster Debate in National Trade Facilitation Committees and Keep this Debate Alive and Kicking</p> <p>Netherlands</p> <p>The focus of this side event is on the scope to use Article 23.2 (National Trade Facilitation Committee) of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement to reduce trade costs. The event will feature speakers from Dutch Customs, Erasmus University, Eindhoven University, EVO Logistics and Transport and CBI (Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries).</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY			
10.30-12.00	<p>Parallel side event 10: 21st Century Public Private Partnership – The Win-Win of the Trade Facilitation Agreement</p>	<p>Parallel side event 11: Getting Past Non-Tariff Measures: Reducing Costs for Business</p>	<p>Parallel side event 12: Geographic Indications as an Engine for Development</p>
	<p>US</p>	<p>Joint ITC-UK-Côte d'Ivoire</p>	<p>France</p>
	<p>Companies large and small see tremendous trade potential in developing nations. But they also worry about serious pitfalls, such as red tape and corruption increasing the time and cost of moving goods across borders. A new partnership-based approach to trade facilitation assistance has the potential to remove those pitfalls and, in turn, increase the standard of living in developing nations. The event will present a new approach to public-private collaboration that seeks to unite private sector insights, developing country commitment and donor community support.</p>	<p>With tariff rates around the world lower than ever, businesses are focusing on non-tariff measures (NTMs) to successfully enter foreign markets. The rising number of NTMs largely reflects higher consumer expectations for product quality and safety. Complying with these measures entails business costs, which are especially onerous for SMEs from developing countries. Business experiences with NTMs in over 20 countries, documented in ITC surveys, show that there are common concerns, and that policy and regulatory changes can reduce trade costs. This session will share business experiences with NTMs and how to address them, from different perspectives.</p>	<p>Geographical Indications (GI) are a vector of development. They make a real contribution to rural development, preservation of biodiversity, the quality of local jobs and the development of local expertise.</p> <p>GIs protect intellectual property whose economic value is recognized in all international trade agreements. Through the experience of players who developed GIs in their country, this event aims to improve information on GIs in developing countries, to highlight their importance for rural development, maintaining farmers on their land and the assurance of a stable and better income. Drawing on the experience of the actors involved in efforts to strengthen the protection of GIs in their respective countries, participants will seek to explain and illustrate the contribution of GIs to economic development. They will also examine the possibilities of cooperation in the context of Aid for Trade.</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY			
12.00-13.30	<p>Side event 13: Implementing Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade for Sustainable Growth: Evidence from the UN Regional Commissions</p> <p>UN Regional Commissions</p> <p>Following a presentation of the results of the first Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation, representatives from the five UN Regional Commissions will present their approaches, success stories, challenges, and lessons learned on how to best orient trade facilitation toward supporting sustainable growth in developing countries. The objective is to provide specific examples of how trade facilitation work has produced a development impact through changes in practices, procedures and rules for international trade. Examples for discussion will be taken from among the following topics: streamlining border clearance procedures (e.g. to avoid losses of perishable goods); creating synergies between trade facilitation and quality control and quality assurance functions; reducing transaction costs; implementing international standards for paperless trade and other innovative trade facilitation tools in order to increase transparency and accountability in value chain operations; as well as other instances where trade facilitation measures have contributed to sustainable growth. The extremely rich and varied basket of global experiences from the five Regional Commissions will provide the audience with real-life examples from a range of environments. During the Q&A period, participants will also have an opportunity to share views and suggestions related to sustainability considerations in trade facilitation.</p>		
13.30-15.00	<p>Parallel side event 14: Regional Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation – Impact on Growth and Poverty Reduction</p> <p>ODI</p> <p>This session will discuss the evidence around the impact of regional infrastructure for trade facilitation on growth and poverty reduction. It will be organized around a research project ODI is leading with others and is DFID-funded. Emerging findings and policy implications will be shared for the first time and will be considered in a policy relevant context.</p>	<p>Parallel side event 15: The Future of the EU Aid-for-Trade Strategy – A Stakeholder Consultation</p> <p>European Union</p> <p>The EU along with its member States committed EUR11.4 billion to Aid-for-Trade projects in 2013. This side event will demonstrate the EU's commitment to transparency, aid effectiveness and best practice sharing by bringing together donors, recipients, academics, international organizations, NGOs and other interested stakeholders to share views on EU Aid for Trade and how it can progressively target better outcomes to support sustainable development and inclusive growth with an emphasis on the most vulnerable countries.</p>	<p>Parallel side event 16: Good Management: A Way to Reduce Trade Costs in the Fisheries Sector</p> <p>Joint Norway-FAO</p> <p>The EAF Nansen project is a cooperation between Norway and FAO which assists developing countries in building up an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY			
15.00-16.30	<p>Parallel side event 17: The Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries 2014-2024</p>	<p>Parallel side event 18: Lowering trade Costs by Mapping Sustainability Standards in Supply Chains</p>	<p>Parallel side event 19: Understanding Effective Development Partnerships - Cooperative Experiences with Developing Countries/LDCs</p>
	<p>Joint Paraguay-Tajikistan</p>	<p>Switzerland</p>	<p>Joint Chinese Taipei-World Vision</p>
	<p>In the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna, Austria from 3 to 5 November 2014, the UN Member states adopted the The Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024 (VPOA). The primary goal of this new Programme is to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from the landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner, and also a subsequent stage which includes a structural economic transformation. Particular attention is given to the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, trade facilitation, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, and regional cooperation.</p>	<p>SECO/Switzerland is a committed partner of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative. One of the five strategic objectives of its economic development cooperation is to promote sustainable trade. In its projects with partner countries, Switzerland promotes trade that is socially responsible, environmentally friendly and inclusive. Voluntary sustainability standards are contributing to sustainable trade growth. To scale up their impact, decision-makers in production, trade and consumption need information on standards, including their market role and impact in the field. The ITC Trade for Sustainable Development Programme is a flagship initiative that Switzerland supports. Its global database on voluntary sustainability standards allows a structured collection of comprehensive, verified and transparent information on over 160 voluntary sustainability standards. The Programme is jointly funded by SECO, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, and the European Commission. The session will feature a beneficiary represented by Colombia, a multinational buyer, the UN Global Compact partnership, which is helping to scale up outreach to farmers and to buyers, as well as views of donors supporting the Programme.</p>	<p>A seminar discussing Aid-for-Trade work by the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu with WTO developing and LDC members in Africa, Latin America, and South Pacific.</p>
	<p>The side event will be an opportunity to present the main features of this new Programme of Action, with an specific focus on trade-related issues where Aid for Trade may play a crucial role. Considering that Trade Facilitation is an important pillar of the VPOA, the panel will also discuss the experiences in implementing Trade Facilitation measures with an emphasis on a whole-of-government approach, which treats improved trading environment as a cross-cutting issue to be integrated into all aspects of reform and development efforts. Special focus will be given to the experience of Tajikistan as a landlocked country in the Central Asia region, where improving trade facilitation conditions have been ranking high on the Governments' development agenda.</p>		

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY			
16.30-18.00	<p>Parallel side event 20: Promoting Cooperative to Cooperative Trade for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Parallel side event 21: Motor Vehicle Agreement Among the BBIN Group of Countries: Key Concerns, Challenges and Benefits</p>	<p>Parallel side event 22: Opportunities in Implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement</p>
	<p>Joint CSEND-ILO-Benin</p>	<p>CUTS International</p>	<p>Centre for Strategic and International Studies</p>
	<p>Cooperative enterprises are major players in the global economy. According to the most recent figures of the International Co-operative Alliance, the 300 largest cooperatives in the world have a combined turnover of US\$2.2 trillion. Some 250 million people are employed or earn their living thanks to a cooperative enterprise. The panel will examine the links between cooperatives and trade, practical experiences of cooperative-to-cooperative trade and how this can make value chains shorter, fairer and more efficient and competitive. The session will address the following questions around trade costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do cooperative enterprises contribute to addressing some of these pressing trade issues? • What are the benefits of cooperative-to-cooperative cross border trade? In particular, what are the added benefits for developing and least developed countries? • How do fair trade and similar partnership approaches to trade, that often build on partnerships with cooperatives, lower trade costs? • How can cooperative enterprises help developing and LDCs link up to global and regional value chains? 	<p>The Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) group of countries is expected to sign a sub-regional motor vehicle agreement for facilitating easy cargo movement across their borders. It is expected to reduce trade transaction costs significantly and can be an effective tool to realise their trade and investment potentiality. In turn, it will generate new economic opportunities, particularly in border areas and, through their multiplier effects, it will help promote sustainable and inclusive development through employment generation and increase in purchasing power. This event will discuss key concerns, challenges and benefits of this agreement, and will provide a roadmap to these countries on how they can leverage Aid for Trade for effective implementation of this proposed motor vehicle agreement, including the role that India should play in this regard through overseas development assistance to its immediate neighbours.</p>	<p>CSIS proposes to host a multi-stakeholder panel discussion to highlight the comprehensive nature of the TFA and the profound implications of its effective implementation. To launch this discussion with a substantive backdrop, a key port facility in a developing country will be selected as a case study. The case study would serve as a specific primer for exploring the following discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major issues that particular port currently struggles with and how will implementation of certain articles of the TFA improve their operations? • What is the anticipated impact on the port from implementation of the TFA – from day-to-day operations to overall performance? • How could we capture and share the insights on transportation, release, and clearance of international goods from a specific facility? • What are specific and meaningful mechanisms for partnership with the private sector? • How can we identify and collect best practices to share across the global community? • What broader development goals can be addressed through the TFA with trade's integration into development?
18.30-20.00	<p>Side event 23: Discovering Pacific Trade Potential (EIF/Pacific Island Forum Secretariat/Australia) – Evening Reception</p>		
	<p>Due to their remoteness, size, exposure to devastating natural disasters and climate vulnerability, Pacific Island countries – and in particular LDCs – are among the most vulnerable in the world. Aid for Trade can have a positive impact in supporting these countries on their development path, leveraging the region's unique natural and cultural endowment. The event – organized by Australia, the Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat – will provide attendees a special Pacific Islands' experience by showcasing select LDC exports supported through Aid for Trade and offering a taste of Pacific Islands' culture, arts and cuisine.</p>		

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 2 JULY			
Different times	<p>9.00-10.30 Parallel side event 24: Non-tariff Measures and Sustainable Development</p> <p>UNCTAD</p> <p>The session raises the awareness of the importance of non-tariff measures (NTMs) for trade costs and sustainable development. Some assessments indicate that NTMs are far more important for trade costs than any other trade control measure. Official NTMs such as laws and regulations and procedural obstacles such as inefficient implementations are distinguished.</p>	<p>9.00-13.00 Parallel side event 25: WTO Chairs Programme</p> <p>Joint WTO ITTC-ERSD</p> <p>This side event, organized by the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) and the Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD), will feature findings from research conducted by WTO Chair holders. The participation of the WTO Chairs is also aimed at increasing the familiarity of the WTO Chairs with the Aid-for-Trade process and to facilitate interactions between policymakers and academics. Papers presented will mainly, but not exclusively, focus on questions related to trade facilitation, the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda, reduction of trade cost as well as inclusive and sustainable development, challenges to move up the global and regional value chain, monitoring and evaluation of Aid-for-Trade packages, private sector development, infrastructure development, regional trade integration, and the role of the WTO and policymakers in facilitating this process.</p>	<p>9.00-10.00 Parallel side event 26: World Bank Trade and Competitiveness Practice Presentation</p> <p>World Bank Group</p> <p>With over 500 staff working across 80 country offices on trade and competitiveness issues, and a portfolio of US\$5.5 billion in commitments, US\$600 million in grants, and over US\$300 million in advisory services projects, the World Bank Group (WBG) is the main multilateral provider of Aid for Trade. The aim of this session is to provide an overview of the services that the WBG's Trade and Competitiveness Practice can offer to countries to enhance their participation in the world economy.</p>
			<p>9.00-10.30 Parallel Side event 27: Transforming Border Bottlenecks into Global Gateways - OECD Tools to Support Trade Facilitation</p> <p>OECD</p> <p>Covering more than 150 countries, the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFI) were developed to help governments prioritise trade facilitation actions and to mobilise technical assistance and capacity-building efforts for developing countries in a more targeted way. They also provide a tool for countries to visualise the progress they have made. The OECD has developed an interactive web tool which allows the comparison of trade facilitation performance in more than 150 countries across income levels, geographical regions and development stages, based on new 2015 OECD TFI data. Covering the full spectrum of procedures included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, a policy simulator also enables users to test the effects of policy changes. The CRS interactive dataset on trade facilitation enables users to carry out multi-faceted analysis by filtering different categories such as bilateral and multilateral donor commitments and disbursements of official development assistance and other official flows, recipients of support, financial modalities and channel of delivery.</p>

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 2 JULY			
Different times	<p>10.00-16.00 Parallel side event 28: Sequencing Reforms and Gearing up for Ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement</p> <p>World Bank Group</p> <p>The aim of this side event is to share best practices in reform design, sequencing and implementation to improve alignment with the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Countries will discuss findings from the validation missions conducted by the WBG and other partners and discuss their action plans for reforms. Countries will present steps for ratification and discuss challenges and roadblocks.</p>	<p>11.00-13.00 Parallel side event 29: Aid for Trade for Inclusive and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Joint Canada-ICTSD side event</p> <p>The UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda, scheduled to be agreed in September, will build on a set of Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis in July 2015. Trade-related targets are mentioned in support of several of the goals, most notably on economic growth and employment, but trade also plays a critical role in achieving the SDGs more broadly, including the goal around eliminating poverty, food security, access to sustainable energy, infrastructure, and sustainable use of oceans and other natural resources etc. Trade is also an important element in financing for development as an engine for economic growth.</p> <p>Targeting Aid for Trade in support of inclusive and sustainable growth will ensure policy coherence and reinforce the added value and impact of Aid for Trade. The objective of the event is to highlight the need for a coherent and comprehensive sustainable development approach to Aid-for-Trade strategizing and planning and to demonstrate ways in which Aid for Trade can support the achievement of the SDGs.</p>	<p>12.00-13.30 Parallel side event 30: Barriers Facing Women Traders in Africa: What are They and How could Aid for Trade Help in Removing Them?</p> <p>Sweden</p> <p>Women are important players in trade in Africa: they produce products, transport goods across borders, manage and own trading firms or are employed to work in them. However, women's potential in trade is often held back by the many constraints they face, including barriers to trade. What are the opportunities and challenges facing women in trade, examples from Africa.</p>