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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

CUTS 
International

Workshop Programme

Aid for Trade - from concepts to action

1 to 2 December 2008

German Development Institute, Tulpenfeld 6, 53113 Bonn

BACKGROUND

Aid for Trade (AfT) has emerged as an important issue in international trade negotiations. Although it is widely acknowledged that international trade can be a strong instrument to foster economic growth, poverty reduction and overall development, it is also observed that trade and trade liberalisation alone are not enough to achieve this, particularly in the case of least developing countries.

The limitations to profit from trade can be manifold: Very often, supply capacity is the determining bottleneck for export activities, hindering developing countries from fully benefiting from international trade. On the import side, they lack the capacity to adjust to new challenges from higher international competition and to compensate losers of trade liberalisation. These limitations, together with limited analytical and negotiation capacity hamper the willingness and ability of developing countries to fully engage in international trade and trade negotiations. Overall, lack of capacity is thus a major impediment for engagement of developing countries in international trade and in international trade negotiations, which is not only hampering their own development agendas but also the goals of the industrialised countries.

These insights have led to increasing demand from developing countries for AfT and for increasing willingness to respond to this demand from the industrialised countries. Particularly, the declarations and commitments in the frame of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the fact that AfT activities will be monitored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have given a strong push and credibility to the agenda. The EU in particular has committed itself to raise the level of AfT of the Commission and the member states jointly to 2 billion Euros per year, to be spent on two of the six categories of AfT defined by WTO/OECD. Though the translation into exact amounts of additional funds is not yet very clear, this commitment could give a strong backing to additional funds in the productive, export-oriented sectors and development portfolios of donors which in recent decades have lost ground against social sectors.

However, much remains to be done, and certain particularities of the AfT agenda have contributed to a lack of dynamism: the problematic division between trade and other economic domains, difficulties in defining, measuring and assuring additionality of the AfT commitments, the sector cross-cutting nature of AfT measures, and the problems of coordination and harmonisation among actors. Most donors are only starting to draw up AfT-strategies and incorporating AfT into their usually sector oriented agendas, and most recipients must yet incorporate AfT into their national and sector development plans. The roles of and labour division between national and international actors is often yet to be defined.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

The workshop will combine two agendas which are vital for good and realistic AfT programmes:

1. The AfT agenda, by collecting, discussing and bringing forward latest developments at the international and national level, in particular in Europe, and
2. Sector agendas, in particular those where German and other donor development assistance provides or can provide AfT (national and regional economic governance and development including sector budget support, agriculture, forest, fishery and other natural resource use, trade related standards, norms and labels, infrastructure, transport and energy) by raising awareness, collecting lessons learned and best practices, discussing and bringing forward where appropriate the mainstreaming of AfT in these sectors.

Both agendas will be coupled, thereby on the one hand

- confronting and enriching the international AfT agenda with sector oriented experiences, giving sector specialists the possibility to contribute to shaping realistic international and national AfT agendas, and on the other hand
- providing sector specialists with information on challenges and opportunities of the AfT agenda, giving them the possibility to take maximum advantage of this agenda while contributing to fulfilling the overall AfT commitments.

The workshop will systematically bring together the perspectives of trade and sector specialists as well as of donor and recipient countries. It will give ample space to exchange and work in small groups to make maximum use of the experience gathered. Results will be channelled into both the German and international AfT agenda processes.

DAY 1

December 1st 2008

- 10:00 am ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
- 11:00 am **Welcome Remarks by the Organisers**
Dirk Messner (German Development Institute)
Gideon Rabinowitz (Consumer Unity & Trust Society International, CUTS)
- 11:20 am **Why this workshop? Towards incorporating AfT into development strategies**
Michael Brüntrup (German Development Institute, DIE)
- 11:40 am SESSION 1 OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL AID FOR TRADE AGENDA
Brief overview of genesis and state of play of the international AfT agenda
Regine Qualmann (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, GTZ)
What does the South expect from AfT?
Robert Lisinge (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA)
A critical appreciation of the AfT agenda
Dan Lui (European Centre for Development Policy Management, ECDPM)
- 1:00 pm Lunch break
- 2:00 pm SESSION 2 WHAT ROLE FOR AfT IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION?
Making AfT work for pro-poor growth
Beatrice Dove-Edwin (former Ministry of trade Sierra Leone, now International Lawyers and Economists against Poverty, ILEAP)
Qualitative aspects in the AfT agenda: Challenges for Improving Effectiveness of AfT
Sven Nilsson (Nordic Consulting Group)
Monitoring AfT: Recent trends in AfT volumes
Magdi Farahat (International Trade Center, ITC)
- 3:30 pm Coffee break
- 4:00 pm SESSION 3 HOW TO INCORPORATE AfT INTO NATIONAL AND DONOR STRATEGIES
Ideas for developing the future of the European AfT Agenda
Ben Nupnau (European Commission DG Trade)
Lessons learned from mainstreaming AfT
Dorothy Tembo (Enhanced Integrated Framework, EIF)
Challenges of incorporating AfT into German development cooperation
Petra Pongracz (German Development Institute, DIE)
- 5:30 pm End of first workshop day
- 6:30 pm Dinner at Bierhaus Machold | HeerstraÙe 52 | 53111 Bonn | ☎ 0228 - 963 78 77

DAY 2

December 2nd 2008

9:00 am SESSION 4 FOUR THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS ON AFT

1. Regional cooperation and governance

Victor Ogalo (Consumer Unity & Trust Society International, CUTS Nairobi)

Regine Qualmann (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, GTZ)

2. General national economic development

Edwin Daniel-Ikhuoria (National Association of Nigerian Traders, NANT)

Birgit Hofmann (Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development, BMZ)

3. Agriculture, forest, fishery and other natural resource use

Eberhard Hauser (free lance consultant)

Doris Günther (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, GTZ)

4. Beyond the narrow definition of Aft

(e.g. infrastructure and transport, role of budget support and funds)

Robert Lisinge (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA)

Klaus Liebig (German Development Institute, DIE)

Each group will elaborate on special challenges and opportunities, lessons learned, roles of actors and way ahead.

Each group will start with two impulse presentations of 5-10 minutes each (ideally South and North), and will be guided and represented by these presenters

10:30 am Coffee break

11:00 am GROUP WORK CONTINUED

12:30 pm Lunch break

1:30 pm SESSION 5 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF GROUP WORK

15 min. presentation and 15 min. discussion for each working group

3:30 pm Coffee break

4:00 pm CONCLUDING REMARKS AND WAY FORWARD

The way forward for German strategy on Aft

Evita Schmiege (Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development, BMZ)

The way forward in the international Aft agenda

Dorothy Tembo (Enhanced Integrated Framework, EIF)

5:00 pm Farewell drinks

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The conference will be free of charge.

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