



Aid for Trade and the Doha Agenda: Implications for Southern Africa

Date: August 23-24, 2006

Venue: Burgers Park Hotel, Pretoria, South Africa

Programming Note:

All presenters will be given a maximum of 20 minutes in order to maximise time for questions and discussion. Presentations should be as non-technical as possible, and make minimum use of electronic facilities (ie powerpoint). Please note that all sessions will be held strictly under Chatham House rules to allow for an open and frank discussion.

Speakers and chairs indicated are subject to availability.

Wednesday August 23rd

* To be confirmed

08h30-09h00 Arrival and registration

09h00-09h30 Welcoming remarks

South African National Treasury

Ivan Mbirimi (Commonwealth Secretariat)

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos (South African Institute of International Affairs)

09h30-10h30 **Session 1: What is aid for trade?**

The international community has discussed the concept of aid for trade for a number of years. Here we will explore what it involves and some of the key issues that have featured in the debate to date. Topics to be covered include: capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, adjustment, conditionality and building supply-side capacities.

Speaker 1: Ricardo Melendez Ortiz, ICTSD

Speaker 2: Frans Lammersen, OECD

Chair: Robert Burgess, IMF

10h30-11h00 Tea

11h00-12h30 **Session 2: Aid for Trade – Perspectives from Multilateral Organisations**

Most recently aid for trade has featured on the agenda of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) but work on the matter has also been undertaken by other multilateral organisations. In order to put developments in the WTO into context, it is important to understand the aid for trade activities of the World Bank, IMF, Integrated Framework and others. There have been suggestions that these organisations are well placed to advance any global aid for trade initiative.

Speaker 1: Robert Burgess, IMF

Speaker 2: Lolette Kritzinger van Niekerk, World Bank

Chair: Peter Draper, SAIIA

12h30-14h00 Lunch

14h00-15h30 **Session 3: The Doha Round and Aid for Trade – Decoding the Task Force Recommendations**

The WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration asked the Director-General to establish a Task Force on aid for trade. The Task Force presented its findings to the General Council at the end of July. This session will focus on the report's recommendations and its implications for the WTO and developing countries.

Speaker 1: HE Mr Shree Baboo Chekitan Servansing, Mauritian Ambassador to the WTO and ACP Group Coordinator*

Speaker 2: HE Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepalese Ambassador to the WTO

Chair: Ivan Mbirimi, Commonwealth Secretariat

15h30-16h00 Tea

16h00-17h30 **Session 4: Implications for Southern and Eastern Africa of the WTO Aid for Trade Debate**

In preparation for this workshop a report will be prepared on the implications of the work of the WTO Task Force on aid for trade for Southern and Eastern Africa. The initial draft of this report will be presented as part of this session and the speakers will explore some of the issues raised in the previous session that are of particular relevance for the region.

Speaker 1: Catherine Grant, SAIIA

Speaker 2: HE Love Mtesa, Ambassador of Zambia to the WTO and coordinator of the LDC group in the WTO

Chair: Gichinga Ndirangu, Oxfam UK

17h30-18h30 **Cocktail**

Thursday August 24th

09h00-10h30 **Session 5: Aid for Trade and Economic Partnership Agreements**

Trade and development are the two complementary pillars of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) currently being negotiated between the European Union (EU) and the ACP countries. Southern and Eastern African countries have made it clear that assistance for the implementation of the EPAs will need to be an integral part of the negotiations. How will any assistance provided fit within the broader aid for trade debate?

Speaker 1: Mark Pearson, RTFP, advisor to the LDC group in the WTO, formerly trade policy advisor to the COMESA Secretary General

Speaker 2: Helena Mcleod, DFID

Chair: Catherine Grant, SAIIA

10h30-11h00 Tea

11h00-12h30 **Session 6: Towards An Effective Aid for Trade Package for Southern and Eastern Africa**

A global aid for trade initiative could be a valuable opportunity for issues surrounding supply-side capacity and trade infrastructure to be addressed in a concrete manner. If the region is to take advantage of this opportunity then it is important to consider what an effective aid for trade package for Southern and Eastern Africa will look like. This session will focus on some of the practical solutions that could be part of such a package.

Speaker 1: Simon Winter, Technoserve

Speaker 2: Mr Subramanyam Vidalur Divvaakar, Ace Global P Limited

Chair: Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA

12h30–13h15

Concluding Discussion

This session will focus on follow-up action at national and regional levels, drawing on the discussions over the preceding days.

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Chair: Ricardo Melendez Ortiz, ICTSD

13h15-14h30

Lunch

Delegates Depart