

DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADE POLICY

**A Media Forum on Trade Policy
14 March 2012
Johannesburg, South Africa**

PROGRAMME

08h30 – 09h00 Registration
09h00 – 09h15 Welcome

Introduction:

09h15 – 10h00 Key concepts in trade and economic policy

This session will give a general introduction to the basic concepts of trade policy. It will address, among others, such issues as trade liberalisation versus protectionism, import substitution policies, export promotion policies, industrialisation etc and how these translate both in theory and practice.

Session 1:

10h00 – 11h15 Trade liberalisation in relation to economic and industrial policies:
Practical Insights

This session will provide a general overview, drawing from practical country case studies, of trade liberalisation and its linkages with economy growth and industrial development. What happens when trade liberalisation does not deliver on the promised benefits – is it a case of failure of trade liberalisation or otherwise? Is there a case for trade liberalisation and how should countries liberalise?

11h15 – 11h30

Tea/Coffee Break

Session 2

11h30 – 13h00 Panel Discussion - South Africa's trade policy dynamics

This session will interrogate South Africa's current policy dynamics. From 'trade policy in a flux' to a 'bold economic vision', what exactly is the direction of trade policy in South Africa and what drives it? Is there a place for trade policy even in the current discourse? Among the various stakeholders involved in trade policy making in South Africa, who is in the driving seat and who should be driving? This session will analyse the current realities and politics of trade policy in South Africa.

13h00 – 13h45

Lunch

Session 3

13h45 – 15h15 Panel Discussion – The multilateral trading system, Doha and the political economy of global economic governance

Many have echoed the story of a multilateral trading system in crisis. Is it really? This session will investigate the problems and challenges that the multilateral trading system currently finds itself faced with. From the Doha round to regional integration to legitimacy concerns, in the context of a world in transformation, where does the multilateral trading system and the WTO find itself? What are the implications for the regional integration processes in Southern Africa?

15h15 – 15h30

Tea/Coffee Break

Session 4:

16h00 – 17h00 Trade Policy Reporting Experience in South Africa

Drawing on the experience of veterans in the business, this session will focus on the South African experience of reporting on trade and economic policy issues. It is an opportunity to share lessons and ideas – from journalists to other journalists.

*All sessions will be conducted under the **Chatham House Rule***. Furthermore, in order to maximise discussions, admission is conditional on participants attending the entire day.*

***What is the Chatham House Rule?**

"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed."



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