REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY/TRANSPORT CORRIDOR QUESTIONNAIRE

WTO OMC

PAGE 4: B.1) ABOUT YOU

Q1: REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY / TRANSPORT CORRIDOR
ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

Q2: MEMBERSHIP
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, DOMINICA, GRENADA, MONTserrat (NON WTO MEMBER), ST. KITTS/NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND NON WTO MEMBERS ANGUILLA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Q3: ABOUT YOU
Name: DIDACUS JULES
Position: DIRECTOR GENERAL
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PAGE 6: C.1) TRADE COSTS AND YOUR REGIONAL / CORRIDOR STRATEGY

Q4: How important are trade costs for the competitiveness of exports of goods and services from your region?
Very important

Q5: Additional information.
Respondent skipped this question

Q6: Do your strategies address the issue of trade costs?
Yes

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### Q7: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for exports?
- Regional development strategy,
- Regional trade strategy,
- Regional specific strategies (e.g. agriculture, etc.)

### Q8: Documents (add weblinks where appropriate):
- OECS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
- CARICOM REGIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR SERVICES
- 5-YEAR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

### Q9: How important are trade costs for access to imports?
- Very important

### Q10: Do your strategies address the issue of trade costs for imports?
- Yes

### Q11: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for imports?
- Regional trade strategy

### Q12: Documents (add hyperlinks where appropriate):
- Consultancy on the Development of a Framework for the Establishment of a Regime for the Free Circulation of Goods in the OECS
- Final Report- Study on the Policy Options for the Trade Facilitation Architecture required for the establishment of the OECS Economic Union

### Q13: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of merchandise goods in your region? (You may tick more than 1 box)
- Border procedures (trade facilitation),
- Tariffs, fees and other charges,
- Non-Tariff Measures (including standards),
- Access to trade finance
Q14: Additional information.
fuel/energy costs

Q15: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of services in your region? (You may tick more than 1 box)
- Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
- Transport infrastructure (e.g. for tourism),
- Non-recognition of professional qualifications,
- Restrictions on commercial presence,
- Restrictions on movement of natural persons,
- Tariffs on product inputs (e.g. on computers for ICT services),
- Low levels of skills in the services sector

Q16: Additional information.
- Restrictive government regulations particularly at the provincial or state level

Q17: In which regional markets to which you export merchandise goods and services do you face the highest trade costs? (Please select no more than 5 regions)
- North America,
- South America,
- The Caribbean

Q18: FOR MERCHANDISE GOODS: For the markets which you have identified as the highest cost, why are the trade costs high? (You may tick more than 1 box)
- Border procedures (trade facilitation),
- Tariffs, fees and other charges,
- Non-Tariff Measures (including standards),
- Transport infrastructure,
- Access to trade finance

Q19: Additional information.
Respondent skipped this question
**Q20:** FOR SERVICES: For the markets which you have identified as the highest cost, why are the trade costs high. (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Poor network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms)
- Poor transport infrastructure (e.g. for tourism)
- Non-recognition of professional qualifications
- Domestic restrictions on commercial presence
- Restrictions on movement of natural persons
- Poor regulatory environment for services
- Tariffs on product inputs (e.g. on computers for ICT services)

**Q21:** Additional information. *Respondent skipped this question*

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**Q22:** How have your trade costs evolved over the past 5 years?

- Between 0-10% increase

**Q23:** Additional information. *Respondent skipped this question*

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**PAGE 16: D.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS**

**Q24:** Are there on-going regional actions to reduce trade costs?

- Yes

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**PAGE 17: D.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS**

**Q25:** Please specify.(You may tick more than 1 box)

- Initiatives led by your organization,
- Initiatives led by national governments,
- Initiatives supported by development partners

**Q26:** Add text and/or weblinks to information on initiatives: *Respondent skipped this question*
Q27: In which areas have actions been undertaken or are actions on-going:

- Reducing trade costs for MERCHANDISE GOODS,
- Border procedures (trade facilitation),
- Tariffs, fees and other charges,
- Non-tariff measures (including standards),
- Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
- Transport infrastructure,
- Reducing trade costs for SERVICES,
- Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
- Transport infrastructure (e.g. for tourism),
- Reforms of national regulatory frameworks for services,
- Negotiations with trading partners on access for service suppliers.

Q28: Is external support aligned with your priorities on reducing trade costs?  Yes

Q29: How is external support aligned with your priorities? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Improved dialogue with the private sector has resulted in this issue being prioritized

Q30: Why is external support not aligned with your priorities? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Other (please specify) differing levels of economic development and priorities within the members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) of which OECS Member States are also members.
**Q31:** Is trade facilitation reflected as a priority in your regional strategies?  
Yes

**Q32:** In which strategy can trade facilitation be found as a priority? (You may tick more than 1 box)  
Regional trade strategy, Regional trade agreement

**Q33:** Additional information.  
The Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the OECS Economic Union and the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which establishes the CARICOM Single Market and Economy both contain provisions that are geared towards facilitating trade

**Q34:** Is trade facilitation included in new strategies currently being formulated or updated?  
Regional development strategy Yes

**Q35:** Additional information:  
Respondent skipped this question

**Q36:** Which, if any, of the following Trade Facilitation Agreement disciplines are covered by existing regional strategies or approaches? (You may tick more than 1 box)  
The Agreement as a whole

**Q37:** Additional information.  
Respondent skipped this question

**Q38:** Would changes need to be made to regional strategies or approaches to integrate, when adopted, Trade Facilitation Agreement disciplines?  
No

**Q39:** Where would changes need to made? (You may tick more than 1 box)  
Respondent skipped this question
Q40: Additional information.  

Q41: Do you plan to seek Aid-for-Trade support to help make changes to regional policies so as to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, after adoption?  

Q42: Please specify where you believe you may need support. (You may tick more than one box)  

Q43: Additional information.  

Q44: What difficulties do you face, or do you expect to face, in securing Aid-for-Trade support to help implement trade facilitation reforms and the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted? (You may tick more than 1 box)  

- Support for trade facilitation reforms and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement already being sought  
- Lack of information on funding opportunities  
- Differing priorities of donors  
- Problems accessing funds  
- Accessing the necessary expertise  
- Ensuring TFA implementation is a priority in regional development planning documents  
- Demonstration of political will for reform  
- Ensuring coherence with past programmes  

Q45: Additional information.  

Q46: What impact do you consider that implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, will have on the evolution of your region's trade costs?  

- Between 0-10% reduction  

Q47: Additional information.
Q48: In which region(s) with which you trade would implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, have the biggest impact on the trade costs you face? (You may chose more than 1 option)

- North America
- South America
- Western Europe

Q49: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q50: What outputs have been achieved through regional actions to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

- Updated customs legislation
- Updated customs working practices
- Improved cooperation between border agencies
- Creation of trade facilitation committees
- Creation of dialogue with private sector

Q51: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q52: What outcomes have been achieved by regional actions to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Unsure

Q53: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q54: What impacts have been achieved by regional actions to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Unsure

Q55: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q56: Which types of actions have achieved the most positive results in reducing trade costs for goods and services? (Please choose no more than 7 options)

- Customs reform
- Other border agency reforms

Q57: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question
**Q58:** What have been the key factors in achieving successful reductions in trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

- Unsure
- Other (please specify)
- Assessments have not been undertaken recently to identify the factors that significantly impact trade costs

**Q59:** Additional information.

- Respondent skipped this question

**Q60:** What contribution do you think reducing trade costs can make to the target of inclusive, sustainable growth? (Please choose no more than 7 options)

- Increase in exports
- Moving up value chains
- Diversification in export markets
- Diversification in export products
- Foreign direct investment
- Increase in imports
- Consumer welfare effects

**Q61:** Additional information.

- Respondent skipped this question

**Q62:** Has the alignment of Aid-for-Trade support to your organization’s needs and priorities changed since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in 2005?

- No change

**Q63:** How has the alignment improved? (You may tick more than one box)

- Respondent skipped this question

**Q64:** Additional information.

- Respondent skipped this question
Q65: Why has the alignment declined? (You may tick more than one box)

- Aid for Trade has not been included in the dialogue with donors
- Aid for Trade has not been included in the dialogue with South-South partners

Q66: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q67: What impact has the Aid-for-Trade Initiative had since its launch in 2005? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

- More attention to trade issues in development
- More priority given by national authorities to trade issues in national development planning
- More priority given by regional authorities to trade issues in development planning
- More priority given by private sector to trade issues

Q68: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q69: What potential future contribution can the Aid-for-Trade Initiative make to the post-2015 development agenda? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

- Contribution of financing for development
- Contribution to improving the business and regulatory environment
- Ensuring continued attention to trade issues in development
- Engaging the private sector in development issues
- Making a contribution to economic growth and poverty eradication through inclusive, sustainable development

Q70: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question
Q71: Additional information on "Reducing trade costs and inclusive, sustainable growth". If there is anything you would like to add on the topic of "Reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth", which you feel has not been covered in this questionnaire, please use this box.

Respondent skipped this question