OECD

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

DONOR QUESTIONNAIRE ON AID FOR TRADE

1 WHAT IS YOUR AID FOR TRADE STRATEGY?

Q1.1 Do you have an operational Aid for Trade strategy? Does it have a "pro-poor" focus? What are its key objectives and delivery/implementation modes? (Please break down by types of aid: "multilateral contributions" / "trust funds" / "budget support" / "other bilateral")

Please describe and exemplify. If applicable, feel free to refer to your 2007 response.

[ESCAP's Aid-for-Trade strategy is of "pro-poor" nature and consists of two parts: (1) To assist ESCAP developing members to more effectively negotiate, conclude and implement multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements (including accession to WTO) and benefit from such agreements. A key component of this work is the WTO/ESCAP Technical Assistance Programme (fall within the "trade policy and regulations & trade-related adjustment" category), which started in 1999 and has continued to expand, in accordance with the needs of the members and associate members of ESCAP; (2) To assist ESCAP developing members in utilizing increased market access through the development of their capacity to trade with focus on improving business and investment climates, and assistance to small and medium sized enterprises and trade facilitation (fall within the "building productive capacity including trade development" category.)

Funding for these two programmes is provided by regular budget, as well as extrabudgetary resources. While national level assistance is provided, the focus is the regional level. Good examples of regional cooperation in trade are the Asia Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), organization of regional multi-stakeholder dialogues on WTO and multilateral trade issues, deepening and strengthening the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) and fostering regional dialogues with traders and investors through the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF).]

Q1.2 If your Aid for Trade Strategy has evolved since 2007, please describe the changes and/or new focuses.

Please describe and exemplify.

[There is no major change in ESCAP's overall AfT strategy since 2007.]

Q1.3 Have you articulated a set of best practices in the design and/or delivery of Aid for Trade?

☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Not sure/Not applicable

If yes, what form does this best practice guidance take?

Please describe and exemplify.

[.....]

2 HOW MUCH AID FOR TRADE DO YOU PROVIDE?

For CRS Reporting Donors

Q2.1 Does the attached CRS profile accurately reflect the volume of your Aid for Trade?

☒ Yes	☐ No

If no, please provide further details of your Aid for Trade activities for 2006 and 2007.

Please add any data that are missing in their appropriate CRS categories, including those activities that should be considered as Aid for Trade under the category of "Other Trade-related Needs" and describe, if applicable, the method used to identify trade-related activities in the relevant CRS categories. Please also provide any activities that may fall under the new category of "Trade-related Adjustment" for 2006.

[.....]

For non-CRS Reporting Donors

Q2.1 How much Aid for Trade did you provide in each of 2006 and 2007? Please also indicate the volume as percentage share of your total ODA.

Please use the WTO Task Force definition and include estimates of the value of in-kind Aid for Trade such as technical cooperation programmes.

[.....]

For All Donor Agencies

Q2.2 Do you have indicative forward spending plans that include estimates on Aid for Trade?

☒ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not sure/Not applicable

If yes, please provide details of your indicative forward Aid for Trade spending plan.

Please delineate the plan per Aid for Trade category.

[ESCAP does not have specific AfT spending plan. However, an indicative estimate could be found in the non-post part of its 2008-2009 regular budget plan for its subprogramme 4: Trade and Investment, which is US$61,000 for 2008, and US$78,200 for 2009.]

For Donors who had made Aid for Trade pledges

Q2.3 Please describe how you are meeting your pledges? And how much progress in delivering your final pledges do you expect to have made in 2008 and 2009?

Please provide details and evidence in accordance with your accountability mechanism.

[As ESCAP is not a funding agency, it does not make pledges.]

For Multilateral Donors

Q2.4 Please describe how funding for your Aid for Trade activities is evolving [e.g. share of activities funded from your agency's core (regular budget) vs. non-core (earmarked) resources, including multi-donor funds; likely trends in these categories].

Please describe.

[ESCAP's regular budget resources for AfT activities basically remain stable, while the extrabudgetary resources are on the rise.]

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to the volume of your Aid for Trade.

[.....]

3 IMPLEMENTATION: HOW ARE YOU DELIVERING AID FOR TRADE?

Mainstreaming and Ownership

Q3.1 What measures have you undertaken to mainstream Aid for Trade in your overall assistance strategy?

Please describe and exemplify.

[As a core theme of ESCAP's subprogramme 4: Trade and Investment, AfT is mainstreamed in the planning and implementation of related projects. It is worth mentioning that an UNCTAD XII pre-event on AfT and Development: Towards a New Global Solidarity Initiative was hosted by ESCAP in Jan 2008 under the auspices of the UN Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. In addition, cross-cutting projects are carried out in cooperation with the Transport and Environment subprogrammes of ESCAP.]

Q3.2 In how many of the partner countries you support, are Aid for Trade concerns an important part of your policy dialogue with them (based on your best estimate)?

☐ less than 25%	☐ 25% to 50%	☒ 50% to 75%	☐ above 75%	☐ Not sure / Not applicable

Q3.3 How many of your country assistance strategies contain trade or Aid for Trade elements (based on your best estimate)?

☐ less than 25%	☐ 25% to 50%	☒ 50% to 75%	☐ above 75%	☐ Not sure / Not applicable

Q3.4 Has demand for Aid for Trade increased from partner countries since 2005?

☐ Significantly increased	☒ Increased	☐ Little / no change	☐ Declined	☐ Not sure / Not applicable

If increased, from which countries / regions, and for which Aid for Trade categories / sectors?

Please describe and exemplify.

[For the Asia-Pacific developing countries, there is an increase in demand for AfT generally in all categories, particularly the "regional trade agreements", "trade facilitaion", and "economic infrastructure" categories.]

If increased, what steps have you taken to strengthen your capacity to respond to increasing demand for Aid for Trade from partner countries? Tick the box of all that apply:

☒	Increased aid resources
☒	Strengthened in-house trade expertise
☒	Improved training, tool-kits and/or guidelines for Aid for Trade programming
☒	Increased awareness among policy-makers and practitioners at the HQ and the field
☐	Strengthened political commitment
☐	Increased coordination among donors (e.g. joint assessment, joint delivery, etc.)
☐	*Please feel free to add other steps you have taken* [.....]

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to mainstreaming and ownership.

[.....]

Working with Others: Harmonisation and Alignment

Q3.5 In how many of the partner countries you support, have you contributed to the following joint donor initiatives?

	< 10%	10-30%	> 30%

Joint needs assessment	☒	☐	☐
Joint Aid for Trade strategy formulation	☒	☐	☐
Joint Aid for Trade programme	☒	☐	☐
Pool funding	☒	☐	☐
Joint monitoring and evaluation	☒	☐	☐
Delegated cooperation	☒	☐	☐

Q3.6 Do you have a specific approach to South-South and/or trilateral cooperation in Aid for Trade?

☒ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not sure/Not applicable

If yes, what are its key elements or particular focuses?

Please describe and exemplify.

[ESCAP is making efforts in promoting the incorporation of AfT elements in the regional cooperation frameworks in the Asia-Pacific region. For example, in servicing as the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), the oldest trading arrangement in the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP is promoting the evolvment of the Agreement into a South-South cooperation platform in the region.]

Q3.7 How much of your Aid for Trade is aligned with your partners' country systems (based on your best estimate)?

☐ less than 25%	☐ 25% to 50%	☒ 50% to 75%	☐ above 75%	☐ Not sure / Not applicable

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to harmonisation and alignment.

[.....]

4 MONITORING RESULTS, EVALUATION AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Q4.1 Does your Strategy include specific monitoring and evaluation guidelines for Aid for Trade programmes?

☐ Specific to Aid for Trade	☒ Generic guidelines

If you do have specific guidelines, please provide the details of your Aid for Trade M&E framework. How often do you review progress towards your strategy objectives? Who do you report to?

Please describe and exemplify.

[.....]

Q4.2 Do you regularly monitor the potential trade impact of your aid projects / programmes?

☒ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not sure/Not applicable

If yes, please describe how.

Please describe and exemplify.

[The AfT-related content is incorporated in the implementation of the programme monitoring and evaluation mechanism of ESCAP, such as the 12-month and 24-month milestone accomplishment account reporting.]

Q4.3 Do you have plans to improve the evaluation of your Aid for Trade programmes?

Please describe and exemplify.

[.....]

Q4.4 Have you carried out or do you plan to carry out an impact assessment of your Aid for Trade programmes?

☐ Yes: *please indicate when:* [MM/YYYY]	☐ No	☒ Not sure/Not applicable

Q4.5 Do you involve partner country stakeholders in developing measurable objectives/indicators to assess the quality of your Aid for Trade programmes?

☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Not sure/Not applicable

If yes, please describe the indicators used.

Please describe and exemplify.

[.....]

Q4.6 Have you undertaken joint evaluations of your Aid for Trade with your partner country stakeholders?

☒ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not sure/Not applicable

If yes, please describe when and the results of the evaluation.

Please describe and exemplify.

[Joint evaluations were undertaken with partner country stakeholders on major projects such as the evaluation of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (2007) and the EC-Bhutan Trade Capcacity Development Project. The evaluations show positive results of the projects.]

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to monitoring, evaluation and mutual accountability.

[.....]

5 REGIONAL DIMENSION

Q5.1 How important is the regional dimension in your Aid for Trade strategy?

☒ Essential element	☐ Important element	☐ Minor element	☐ Not present	☐ Not sure / Not applicable

If essential or important, please describe how your Aid for Trade strategy addresses regional challenges.

Please describe and exemplify.

[As the largest UN regional arm in the Asia-Pacific region aiming at promoting regional economic and social development, ESCAP is utilizing regional approach in designing and implementing its AfT-related programmes, and addressing regional challenges such as improving the policy coordination and coherence in pursuing inclusive and sustainable development and enhancing supply-side capacity of its members and associate members.]

Q5.2 Which of the following factors are important for determining whether or not to support particular regions or regional programmes? Please list in the order of importance.

☒	Relevance to ongoing regional trade agreements / negotiations
☒	Regional proximity / support to neighbouring regional economic integration processes
☐	Cultural, linguistic or historical ties with the region
☐	Existence of a viable counterpart at regional level
☐	Request for assistance from a regional body
☐	Availability of a clearly defined regional development strategy
☐	Geographical concentration of donor activities
☐	*Other, please describe* [The order of importance of the items checked is 1, 2.]

Q5.3 By how much has the volume of your regional Aid for Trade increased since 2005?

☐ Declined	☐ By less than 5%	☒ By 5 to 15%	☐ By 15 to 30%	☐ More than 30%

Q5.4 In which assistance categories are you particularly active at regional level?

	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Not sure / Not applicable
Training (trade negotiations/WTO rules)	☒	☐	☐	☐
Trade facilitation	☒	☐	☐	☐
Development of cross-border infrastructure	☐	☐	☐	☒
Capacity building of regional organisations	☐	☒	☐	☐

Other, please describe and exemplify [.....]

Q5.5 What are the most important challenges in implementing regional Aid for Trade?
Please list in the order of importance.

☒	Lack of (or weak) articulated demands for regional Aid for Trade
☒	Lack of coherence between national and regional priorities
☒	Lack of credible lending authorities at regional level
☒	Lack of effective coordination at regional level
☒	Difficulties of monitoring and evaluating results at regional level
☒	Lack of credible mutual accountability mechanisms at regional level
☐	*Other, please describe and exemplify* [The order of importance of the above items checked is: 1, 5, 4, 3, 2, 6.]

Q5.6 Has the demand for regional Aid for Trade increased since 2005?

☐ Significantly increased	☒ Increased	☐ Little / no change	☐ Declined	☐ Not sure / Not applicable

If yes, in which regions and for which activities has it increased the most?

Please describe and exemplify.

[ESCAP observes an increase in AfT demand in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly from the LDCs and LLDCs, and in the areas of mutil-lateral/regional/bilateral trade governance, trade facilitation and supply-side capacity building.]

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to regional Aid for Trade.

[.....]