

PARTNER COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE ON AID FOR TRADE

- We advise you to read the Explanatory Notes starting on page 10 before answering the questionnaire.
- When completed, this form should be returned by 20 February 2009 via e-mail to aft.monitoring@oecd.org and aft.monitoring@wto.org.
- The questionnaire can be downloaded from the OECD website at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/trade/aft> or from the WTO Members' website at <http://members.wto.org/members/>.
- All the boxes in this form are expandable.

1 IS YOUR TRADE STRATEGY MAINSTREAMED?

Q1.1 Does your country have a national development plan or strategy?

- Yes No

If YES, does this development plan include trade as a lever for growth and poverty reduction? (please tick the most accurate description below)

Trade is a key priority and the plan includes well developed trade-related priorities and implementation actions (please attach).

Trade is mentioned but the plan does not include operational objectives and action plans.

No.

Other, please describe:

Fiji has a national development strategy, the Sustainable Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) 2008-2010, which succeeds the Strategic Development Plan (SDP). The SEEDS contains broad strategies which are applicable to the whole of government. Implementation plans and timelines will be available from annual corporate plans; however, the SEEDS has an implementation timeframe of 3 years. The operational strategy for the priority areas agreed to should be available from relevant agency's Corporate/Business Plan.]

Chapter 5.9 of the Sustainable Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) 2007-2011: - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs core functions are to formulate and implement the Government's foreign policy. This includes the design and implementation of policies that seek to protect Fiji's political interests, national security, ideological goals and economic prosperity. Fiji's international relations and trade policies are promoted through pre-active engagement in



the various bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements, treaties and conventions Fiji is party to. The Ministry also plays an important role in the negotiation and administration of foreign aid and technical assistance.

[Attachments: i) Section 5.9 of the SEEDS. Can access SEED and SDP documents from Government website: <http://www.mfnp.gov.fj>

Fiji's Trade Policy Review of 1997 clearly details the change of policy direction from an inward looking Import Substitution strategy to an outward looking Export-oriented strategy and policy shifts towards mainstreaming trade as a vehicle for development.

Fiji's Trade Policy Review of 1997 is available from the WTO website
URL: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp53_e.htm

If your Government does NOT have an articulated national development plan or strategy, or if trade is not strongly present in it, are there other separate strategies/plans addressing trade-related objectives? (feel free to tick more than one box)

- Government priority areas are not systematically subject to a documented strategy.
- In the annual government budget.
- In various sectoral strategies (e.g. one per relevant ministry, or per sector). Please describe and attach:
National Export Strategy - link: <http://www.commerce.gov.fj>); Annual Corporate Plan (ACP) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & Civil Aviation (MFAICCA Attached as Annex 1 of this Questionnaire); 2009 Budget Address - link: <http://www.mfnp.gov.fj>
- In one single trade development/competitiveness strategy document encompassing all trade-related priorities across different government departments (*please attach*).
- Other, please describe:

For Least-Developed Countries participating in the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), former Integrated Framework (IF):

Do the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and Action Matrix reflect your Government trade strategy? (please tick the most accurate description below)

- The DTIS and accompanying action matrix reflect well my country's trade-related needs and my Government's priorities.
- The DTIS and accompanying action matrix partly reflect my Government's analysis of trade needs and priority areas.

- The DTIS and accompanying action matrix are not (or are no longer) a good indication of my country's trade-related needs and priorities.
- The DTIS and accompanying action matrix are not currently a good indication of my country's trade-related needs/priorities, but they are in the process of being updated.
- Other, please describe:

Q1.2 What are your Government's priority areas of intervention to improve your country's capacity to benefit from trade expansion and integration into the world economy?

(Below are listed the most common areas grouped according to broad aid category – please rank the top 3 priority areas among the 12 listed)

<i>Trade Policy and Regulations</i>	3 Trade Policy Analysis, Negotiation and Implementation	<i>Economic Infrastructure</i>	2 Network infrastructure (power, water, telecom)
	_ WTO Accession costs		_ Other transport
	_ Trade Facilitation		_ Cross-border Infrastructure
<i>Building Productive Capacity</i>	_ Competitiveness	<i>Other</i>	_ Adjustment costs
	_ Value Chains		_ Regional Integration
	1 Export Diversification		Other, please describe:

Q1.3 Does your Government have an operational strategy (with action plans, timelines and budgets) for its priority areas?

Priority 1: Export Diversification Yes Being formulated No

If Yes or Being formulated, please describe:

1. Yes, Government through the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Trade & Communications has a strategic plan regarding the National Export Strategy. In 2009, the MITT&C hopes to allocate \$2 million between 5 applications that falls into specific areas of: (1) food processing; (2) agro-based (Taro exporter); (3) forestry certification for mahogany products; (4) a proposed FTIB export facility; and (5) Nature's Way Cooperative (for a hot air treatment plant in Nadi.)

The MITT&C also has a work programme to review the relevance of the criteria that is used for the NES annual allocation as some applications are merely operationally related and may not directly increase exports in the short term whereas Government needs exports to be diversified and improved in the short term.

The aim of the NES is to stimulate Fiji exports so that our BOP situation is improved. In order, to foster ownership, and ensure that strategies developed are realistic, a partnership approach was adopted between the public and private sector in 2006 when NES work first started.

The Strategy is comprehensive in that it addresses competitiveness issues at the national, sectoral and sub-sectoral levels, which are consistent with the priorities endorsed by Government. There had been 13 sectors that had been identified under the NES, out of the 13 sectors, there are 6 sectors that have been prioritized, which are:

- Agro-business
- Forestry
- Marine Products
- Mineral Water
- ICT
- Audio Visual.

The Sugar Industry and Tourism Sector are being addressed separately given their pivotal role to the economy.

(NB: refer to the tabulated strategy in NES book for Agro-business on page 84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91 (the table can be photocopied & attached), Forestry (page 64, 65,66,67,68), Marine Products (72,73,74,75,76), Mineral Water (97,98), ICT (114,115,116,117), Audio Visual (108,109,110). Go to <http://www.commerce.gov.fj>

Priority 2: Network infrastructure (power, water, telecom) Yes Being formulated
 No

If Yes or Being formulated, please describe:

There is no specific aid for trade targeting network infrastructure as power and telecom is independently managed while water infrastructure is funded through loans. Technical assistance received are based on prospective loan arrangements.

Priority 3: Trade Policy Analysis, Negotiation and Implementation Yes Being formulated
 No

If Yes or Being formulated, please describe:

Attached Documents : Annual Corporate Plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & Civil Aviation (MFAICCA) - " Output 3 International Economic Cooperation and Trade Facilitation; Role of the Trade Development Committee - MFAICCA.]

The Economics Division of the MFAICCA is responsible for pursuing sound and advantageous international economic relations, notably: external trade negotiation for favourable market access; investment and tourism promotion; technology harvesting; and enhancing international technical & development assistance.

The division is also responsible for actively positioning Fiji to take advantage of the economic benefits of globalisation and emerging markets through proactive negotiations , partnership and cooperation with the international community.

The division acts as the secretariat of the Trade Development Committee (TDC), which is a key inter-Ministerial body that oversees the analysis, formulation, negotiation and implementation of Fiji's trade related economic policies.

This Committee undertakes research and strategic planning in determining, securing and promoting Fiji's trading and economic interests; through formulating country positions and negotiating strategies in trade related international negotiations and multilateral conferences. The Committee is also responsible for analysing current trends and developments in international commerce and providing technical advise on the multilateral trading environment, as espoused by the WTO.

Q1.4 Are the financing needs of these trade-related priorities included in your national dialogue with donors?

Yes No Not sure

If YES, which structures do you use to discuss the financing needs of your trade-related priorities with your donors? (feel free to tick more than one box)

PRSP/CAS Bilateral dialogues Regional-wide dialogues Other, please describe: **Multilateral**

(Aid for Trade); WTO; Pacific Trade and Development (PTDF) under PIFS

Fiji's trade regime is implemented at three levels: -

I) Bilateral trade agreements (BTAs) are established with our closest neighbours and main trading partners such as Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries such as Tonga, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa.

II) Regional trade agreements (RTAs) are also pursued in the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) and the PACP EPA with the EU.

III) In the multilateral trading system, Fiji is a signatory to the WTO and is therefore bound by its rules and principles. The Pacific Trade and Development Facility (TDF) is a channel for AfT funding which is supported by the countries of the Pacific region in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the identified projects at the national and regional levels, but also the highest level of accountability and transparency in the utilization of the funds to the donors to the Pacific region. This facility is intended to be shortly formally established within the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) as a separately managed facility and will be open to contributions from any government and organization.

Please describe the type of dialogue or alternative method, its level, its frequency, and its specificity to trade matters:

Bilateral Dialogues:

Dialogue with our major bilateral donor partners on development financing occurs at a senior Government official's level, through the Budget and Aid Coordinating Committee (BACC) machinery of the Ministry of Finance and through annual consultations between the major donor countries and the Aid Unit of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The degree of specificity to trade matters, specifically for Trade Policy Analysis, Negotiation and Implementation features in the dialogues and is becoming more highly prioritized by the Government of Fiji.

Regional Dialogues:

Dialogue on financing for trade-related priorities such as Trade Policy Analysis, Negotiation and Implementation occurs quite frequently (several times a year) on a regional basis at all levels of Fiji Government representation (officials/senior officials/Ministers & Head of Government). The regional forums include the Pacific Islands Forum meetings (Forum Trade Officials/Ministers, Pacific ACP Officials/Ministers, Forum Economic Officials/Ministers & Forum Leaders Meeting) for dialogue on trade development financing for the Pacific region with Australia, New Zealand, EU, Japan, China and other Forum dialogue partners.

The Regional Trade Facilitation Program (RTFP) is funded by Australia and New Zealand for trade facilitation for the Pacific Island Countries. The RTFP is also intended to assist in the efforts for greater integration of Forum Island Countries into the international economy, is practicable and is consistent with other regional and international trade facilitation agreements and initiatives. The

programme which commenced in 2005 will run for a period of five years. The RTFP activities will improve, harmonise and strengthen the valuable elements through practical implementation of Customs procedures, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and Standards & Conformance processes.

Multilateral Dialogues (Aid for Trade): Please refer to Q1.4, paragraph III

If NO, do you have plans to include trade-related priorities in your dialogue with donors in the next two to three years?

Yes No Not sure

- End of Section 1 -

Please feel free to provide additional information about your trade strategy

Q1. 3 - The MFAET acts as the secretariat of the Trade Development Committee (TDC), which is a key inter-Ministerial body that oversees the analysis, formulation, negotiation and implementation of Fiji's trade related economic policies. This Committee undertakes research and strategic planning in determining, securing and promoting Fiji's trading and economic interests; through formulating country positions and negotiating strategies in trade related international negotiations and multilateral conferences. The Committee is also responsible for analysing current trends and developments in international commerce and providing technical advice on the multilateral trading environment, as espoused by the WTO.

Non-State Actors:- The Cabinet, on 5 June 2001, approved (decision no. CGP(01)87) that the Trade Development Committee consisting of relevant Government Departments and Ministries be extended to represent non-state actors or the members of the civil society(NGOs) and the private sector.

This wider role of the TDC is inline with drive in international bodies such as the European Commission and the WTO, of a participatory approach and the representation and involvement of non-state actors in international trade in all stages, leading on from negotiations to implementation of trading arrangements.

The Cotonou Agreement, for example, views trading arrangements as a form of partnership amongst all sectors of the society in member states. This comes from the recognition that governments rarely produce products tradable under external trade framework. In most cases, the private sector utilises trading arrangements to facilitate exports and imports.

The involvement of NGO and other non-state actors ensures that the new partnership arrangements proceed along the lines of political dialogue, incorporating many different aspects of cooperation such as good governance, human rights, democracy and rule of law, themes central to the development of all sectors of the society.

2 HOW IS YOUR TRADE STRATEGY FINANCED?

Q2.1 Does the attached CRS¹ profile accurately quantify the Aid for Trade you received in 2006 and 2007?

Yes

No

Not sure/ NA

If NO, please provide details of the Aid for Trade you received in 2006 and 2007.

[Please describe with figures, and include any activities that may fall under 'other trade-related needs']

The GOF (Government of Fiji) is not cognizant of the CRS mechanism nor has it utilized to record Aft flows.

- End of Section 2 -

Please feel free to provide any additional information on aid-for-trade flows

However, the GOF undertook and successfully completed a Financial Management Reform (FMR) that began in 2004 - a new policy Framework that aims to improve the management of government funds by improving performance and accountability in the management of such funds. The Framework has been introduced following public concern over Government's inefficiencies and wastage as reflected in numerous Auditor General's Reports as well as reports by international agencies on public expenditure practices in Fiji. These reports have highlighted the need for Government to seriously address its resource allocation and financial management processes.

The FMR is based on standard Westminster concepts of Ministerial accountability, with strengthened processes in each stage of the management cycle rather than on the "purchase-provider" model that was the basis for the 1999 Act.

The FMR will strengthen and modernise the management of Government finances to: i) better align government policy priorities with budget resources; ii) adopt a performance focus; iii) more effective control over public spending; and iv) strengthen accountability and transparency in financial management. Go to <http://www.mfnp.gov.fj>

¹ The CRS profile summarises the commitments and disbursements reported by donors to the OECD Creditor Reporting System on the aid categories most closely associated with Aid for Trade as defined by the WTO Task Force, specifically support for trade policy and regulations, trade development, trade-related infrastructure, building productive capacity and trade-related adjustment (available from 2008 only).

3 HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR TRADE STRATEGY?

Ownership

Q3.1 Who is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the implementation of your trade strategies including activities funded by ODA?

- A national committee is responsible for coordination and implementation.
- The Trade Department has a coordinating role but implementation is overseen by each relevant department separately.
- The national aid agency has the main coordinating role but implementation is overseen by each relevant department separately.
- There is no central coordination department. Each relevant department is separately responsible for implementation.

Other, please describe:

Answer: The Trade Department has a coordinating role but implementation is overseen by each relevant department separately.

Note: The “Trade Department” is the Economic Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation, which coordinates Fiji’s trade Strategies.

The Budget and Aid Coordinating Committee(BACC) has the main coordinating role for all ODA funded trade strategies, but implementation is overseen by each relevant department separately.

If you have (or are in the process of establishing) a national committee, please describe its main functions, its membership (e.g. ministries, private sector), frequency of its meetings and to whom the committee reports. [Please describe and exemplify below.]

The National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)

OBJECTIVES:

- i) coordinate the process of Government, private sector and civil society cooperation to reduce practical impediments to Fiji's external trade;
 - ii) spearhead the simplification of Fiji's external trade procedures at a national level, and their harmonisation with regional and multilateral trade procedures;
 - iii) actively participate in the Regional Trade Facilitation Forum;
 - iv) secure trade benefits for Fiji through technical assistance under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER), Cotonou and WTO trade agreements;
 - v) contribute to Fiji's potential to harness tangible and long-term benefits from bilateral, regional and multilateral trade liberalisation
-

Trade Development Committee (TDC)

The Trade Development Committee is responsible for the analysis, formulation, negotiation and implementation of Fiji's trade related economic policies. The TDC meets on a monthly basis and reports to Cabinet on matters of policy change and for endorsement of national positions for trade negotiations.

[Attachments: i) TOR for the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) Attached as Annex 2 of this Questionnaire; ii) Role of Trade Development Committee - Attached as Annex 3 of this Questionnaire

Q3.2 Do you engage in dialogue with the private sector and other key domestic stakeholders about the formulation and implementation of your trade strategy?

Nearly always Regularly Rarely Not sure/ NA

If you do, please describe your main stakeholders and the focus and frequency of your dialogue.

[Please describe and exemplify below.]

Please refer to the attached document on the Role of the Trade Development Committee in Question 1.3]

Consultation on the formulation and implementation of Fiji's trade strategies is conducted through the Trade Development Committee (TDC), which includes membership of key Ministries and Government Departments. These Ministries and Departments conduct regular consultations with their relevant Private Sector and industry groups on trade policy and strategies. There is also the Extended TDC in which TDC membership is extended to non-state actors or the members of the civil society(NGOs) and the private sector. This wider role of the TDC incorporates the Fiji Government's participatory approach to include the involvement of private sector/non-state actors in our trade strategy at all stages, leading on from negotiations to implementation of trading arrangements.]

Government also undertakes Budget Process consultations with the Private Sector aside from respective line Ministries

Workshops on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) for NSAs.

For Least-Developed Countries participating in the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF):

Q3.3 Is your EIF focal point and committee responsible for overseeing and coordinating all your trade agenda?

Yes No Not sure/ NA

If no, please describe the different arrangements:

Working with external partners: harmonisation and alignment

Q3.4 In your Aid for Trade programs, how often do donors co-ordinate and align through:

	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely or Never	Not Sure
Joint needs assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-financing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector-wide approaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Monitoring and Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please describe:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Monitoring and evaluation

Q3.5 Do you monitor or evaluate your donor supported trade-related programmes?

Nearly always Regularly Rarely or Never Not Sure

If you monitor and evaluate your donor supported trade-related programmes, do you use:

	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely or Never	Not Sure
Donors' monitoring and evaluation results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint monitoring and evaluation arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Own monitoring and evaluation arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Own monitoring but joint/donor evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you use nearly always or frequently your own monitoring and/or evaluation arrangements, can you please provide examples of your methodology and results? [Please describe and exemplify below.]

GOF's financial system - Acquittal Reports - line Ministries are required by the Ministry of Finance to produce and submit Acquittal Reports to the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Unit of the Ministry of Finance for completion of every phase of a project or tranche of funds. Subject to the satisfactory assessment of the Acquittal Report, benchmarked against the approved Work Plan, signed Memorandum of Agreement /MOU, the Minister for Finance will approve the release of next tranche of funds. The process continues until project is completed. In the case of irregularities or non-conformance of the project implementation process with the provisions of the above documents, appropriate actions are executed by the ODA Unit in collaboration with the respective line Ministry.

Submission of Projects' Quarterly Reports to the BACC and outcomes/decisions on the Reports are transmitted to line Ministries for appropriate action/information.

Government's Auditor General Office carries out annual (December-January) audit on ODA's books/records as well as for respective line Ministries/Departments.

Mutual Accountability

Q3.6 Have you established mechanisms/procedures to discuss with the relevant donors the outcome and impact of your trade-related programmes?

Yes No Not sure/ NA

If yes, please can you describe and exemplify them?

Annual region-wide consultations with the relevant donors are held through the various forums arranged by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat eg. Post-Forum Dialogues, Aft Roundtable discussions and Regional Trade Facilitation Program(RTFP) meetings.

Priorities for improvement

Q3.7 What are your government's priorities to improve the implementation and effectiveness of the aid for trade it receives? Please rank the top three in order of importance.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Greater say in the design of aid for trade interventions: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Stronger donor focus on capacity development: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Better predictability of aid for trade funding: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| More extensive use of Budget Support
(or Trade Sectoral Wide Approaches) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More regular joint-donor implementation actions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More harmonised reporting requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More frequent joint donor-partner implementation efforts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More systematic use of joint donor-partner monitoring
and evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other, please describe: | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please, describe in detail the improvements needed in your top priority area

Aid for Trade should be aligned to the GOF's trade priorities and a large degree of ownership be allowed in the design of Aft interventions so as to improve shorfalls in sectoral commitments and sustain strong commitment in-partnership for trade development from Government and relevant stakeholders.

Sharing Knowledge

Q3.8 Please identify and rank three areas of interventions (see Question 1.2 for a list of examples) where aid for trade has been most effective at raising trade capacity in your country.

(Please explain your choice)

Area 1 Export Diversification

For Export diversification, assistance was provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat through technical assistance were provided through consultants that taught Officials on the process. Funding was also provided for workshops which had been conducted in which the private and public sector were made aware and educated on the processes involved in developing the NES. After the NES was endorsed by the previous Government, an annual budget of around \$2 million had been allocated for the project alone.

Area 2 Network Infrastructure (power, water, telecom)

There is no specific aid for trade targeting network infrastructure as power and telecom is independently managed while water infrastructure is funded through loans. Technical assistance received are based on prospective loan arrangements.

Area 3 Trade Policy Analysis, Negotiation and Implementation

Fiji has benefited significantly from capacity building initiatives in the area of trade policy analysis and negotiation in the form of technical assistance schemes funded by foreign donors. Whilst there is still a great need for further training to develop a larger pool of well qualified trade officials, it has been noted that the majority of government officials actively involved in trade-related matters have benefited from training on specific trade matters, relevant to their particular fields.

Q3.9 Are there any particular examples of your aid-for-trade processes, programmes or projects that have obtained good results that you think could contribute to the development of good practices?

[If so, please describe them below and attach any relevant documents.]

- End of Section 3 -

Please feel free to provide additional information on the implementation of your donor supported trade-related programmes and projects, *i.e.* aid for trade.

4 ADDRESSING TRADE CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Q4.1 Do your trade strategies specifically address regional trade capacity challenges?

Yes No Not sure/ NA

If YES, please describe them:

Annual region-wide consultations with the relevant donors are held through the various forums arranged by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat eg. Post-Forum Dialogues, Aft Roundtable discussions and Regional Trade Facilitation Program(RTFP) meetings.

Notes on Regional Dialogues in Q1.4 is relevant

Q4.2 Do you participate in regional dialogues, programmes or activities aimed at promoting regional integration?

Yes No Not sure/ NA

If YES, can you tell us in how many of these you participate in and describe the most important ones to you? [Please describe below.]

Regional Dialogues/Programs/Activities:

Dialogue to address regional trade-capacity challenges occurs very frequently(several times a year) on a regional basis at all levels of Fiji Government representation(officials/senior officials/Ministers & Head of Government). The primary regional forum for discussions on regional integration is the Pacific Islands Forum at the following annual meetings:

- Forum Trade Officials/Ministers Meeting
- Pacific ACP Officials/Ministers Meeting
- Forum Economic Officials/Ministers Meeting
- Forum Leaders Meeting.

Q4.3 Do you know if these regional dialogues, programs, and/or institutions receive aid for trade?

Yes, they do No, they don't I don't know/ NA

If YES, are you an active participant in the regional dialogues, programs and/or institutions?

Yes No Not sure/ NA

Q4.4 Do you participate in or benefit from aid-for-trade programmes implemented at the regional level?

Yes No Not sure/ NA

If YES, please describe the main benefits. *[Please describe and quantify whenever possible.]*

For the Pacific, aid funded projects/programs are mainly implemented at the regional level as part of the Pacific Regional Economic Integration Program(PACREIP). The main focus of PACREIP is to build and strengthen capacity of the ACP countries of the Pacific(PACPS)-to enable them to effectively implement Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement(PICTA), successfully conduct EPA Negotiations with EU, effectively support PACPS participation in the WTO, active engagements in regional economic integration in Private sector development, Trade Facilitation (Customs and Biosecurity), financial sector and fiscal reforms and regional tourism development.

- End of Section 4 -

Please feel free to provide any additional information concerning the regional dimension of your trade strategies:

THE PACIFIC PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

The Pacific Plan was endorsed by leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in October 2005. It is a living document ensuring flexibility so that the Vision of the leaders and the goal of regional integration extend far into the future.

FORUM LEADERS VISION: "Leaders believe the Pacific Region can, should and will be a Region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all its people can lead free and worthwhile lives. We treasure the diversity of the Pacific and seek a future in which its cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed. We seek a Pacific Region that is respected for the quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values and for its defence and promotion of human rights. We seek partnerships with our neighbours and beyond to develop our knowledge, to improve our communications, and to ensure a sustainable economic existence for all."

To meet its goal the Plan's strategic objectives are:

Economic Growth: 1) increased sustainable trade (including services), and investment; 2) improved efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure development and associated service delivery; 3) increased private sector participation in and contribution to development.

Sustainable Development: 4) reduced poverty; 5) improved natural resource and environmental management; 6) improved health; 7) improved education and training; 8) improved gender equality; 9) enhanced involvement of youth; 10) increased levels of participation and achievement in sports; 11) recognised and protected cultural values, identities and traditional knowledge.

Good Governance: 12) improved transparency, accountability, equity and efficiency in the management and use of resources in the Pacific;

Security: 13) improved political and social conditions for safety and stability.

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj>

-- Thank you --

Annex 1

Excerpt of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation Annual Corporate Plan 2008

[Page 5]

- **Economics Division**

The Division is responsible for pursuing sound and advantageous international economic relations, notably: external trade negotiation for favourable market access; investment and tourism promotion; technology harvesting; and enhancing international technical & development assistance.

The division is also responsible for actively positioning Fiji to take advantage of the economic benefits of globalisation and emerging markets through proactive negotiations, partnership and cooperation with the international community.

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Output	Strategic Priority Areas
Output 3 - International Economic Cooperation and Trade Facilitation sub-output 3.1 Improve external economic relations by facilitating trade, investment and tourism sub-output 3.2 Negotiation and consultation on economic, trade and technical corporation agreements sub-output 3.3 Participation in multi-lateral and bi- lateral trade forums	 3.1.1 Enhance investment, and secure favorable market access and build negotiation capacity to achieve sustained national economic development 3.2.1 Development of Fiji's foreign trade policy as a reflection of the country's interests and priorities. 3.2.2 Diversification of export markets through the pursuit of new markets particularly in the Asia Pacific region. 3.3.1 Promote and advance economic, trade, investment and tourism interests and initiatives with existing and potential bilateral & multilateral partners.

Annex 2

NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 Preamble

A liberalised global trading system offers opportunities for the Fiji Islands to enhance its development through increased output, improved human capital and the transfer of technology. Within the present system of global trade rules, potential remains for Fiji to accrue greater benefits from external trade. It is therefore imperative that impediments to the exploitation of these benefits be removed.

2 Background

- 2.1 Recent global, regional and national developments have increased the importance of establishing a body to spearhead the process of trade facilitation in Fiji. These developments include ongoing processes of global trade liberalisation through the multilateral framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Fiji must actively harness opportunities arising from multilateral liberalisation if it is to enjoy output, employment and technological benefits from external trade. At a regional level, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) has emphasised that processes of trade facilitation can accelerate the development of the Pacific region through enhanced global and intra-regional trade. At a national level, Cabinet at its meeting on 17 July 2002 agreed to the formation of a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and has made a commitment to make trade facilitation a policy priority.
- 2.2 The guidelines and proposed structure for the NTFC were developed by the Fiji National Trade Facilitation Policy Workshop, held from 24-26 September 2002 at Pacific Harbour. This Workshop was co-organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Business Development and Investment, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, with donor support from the European Union. The Workshop involved participants from relevant Government bodies and private sector organisations. The objective of the Workshop was to take practical steps in the formulation of the NTFC, including the development of guidelines for its Terms of Reference and for the National Trade Facilitation Programme it will oversee.

3 Definition

- 3.1 Trade facilitation is defined as, “the simplification and harmonisation of international trade procedures,” where trade procedures are understood as, “the activities, practises and formalities involved in collecting, presenting,

communicating and processing data required for the movement of goods and services in international trade.” (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)

- 3.1 Trade facilitation is thus understood as a *process*, whereby the practical and operational impediments to inter-regional and global trade are progressively reduced. This requires cooperation between Government, the private sector and civil society. By focusing on the operational aspects of international trade, trade facilitation is distinct from government-to-government negotiations adjusting trade barriers through bilateral, regional or multilateral institutions. In effect, trade facilitation is an attempt to enhance external trade *within* the current regime of government-imposed trade barriers. It can thus include, for example:
- The development or dissemination of technologies that reduce communications costs.
 - Institutional changes that reduce costs associated with quarantine and customs procedures.
 - Technical programmes that reduce costs of compliance with international health, safety and quality standards.
 - Awareness programmes to increase private sector access to information on potential supplier and buyer markets.

4 Objectives

- 4.1 The objectives of the NTFC are to:
- i. Coordinate the process of Government, private sector and civil society cooperation to reduce practical impediments to Fiji’s external trade.
 - ii. Spearhead the simplification of Fiji’s external trade procedures at a national level, and their harmonisation with regional and multilateral trade procedures.
 - iii. Actively participate in the Regional Trade Facilitation Forum.
 - iv. Secure trade benefits for Fiji through technical assistance under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER), Cotonou and WTO trade agreements.
 - v. Contribute to Fiji’s potential to harness tangible and long-term benefits from bilateral, regional and multilateral trade liberalisation.

5 Structure

- 5.1 The structure of the NTFC will reflect the need for cooperation between all relevant Government bodies and a broad range of private sector organisations to effect trade facilitation. The NTFC will thus involve all policy stakeholders, both at committee and sub-committee levels.
- 5.2 The NTFC will consist of representatives from:
- Ministry of Commerce, Business Development and Investment (Chair);
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Ministry of Finance and National Planning;
 - Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau;

- Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement - Quarantine Division;
- Ministry of Fisheries and Forests;
- Reserve Bank of Fiji;
- Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority – Customs Division;
- Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration - Department of Immigration;
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlement and Environment – Department of Environment;
- Fiji Visitors Bureau;
- Maritime and Ports Authority of Fiji;
- Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration;
- Ports Terminal Limited;
- Airports Fiji Limited;
- Fiji Institute of Freight Forwarders and Customs House Agents.
- Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- Fiji Manufacturers Association;
- Fiji Employers Federation;
- Fiji Indigenous Business Council; and
- Consumer Council of Fiji.

5.3 The NTFC may, from time to time, invite representatives from relevant Government, private sector, civil society or regional organisations to observe and/or advise the Committee on strategies to achieve its objectives.

5.4 The NTFC will meet regularly in order to achieve its stated objectives: following monthly establishment meetings, the NTFC will meet quarterly. Additional meetings may be called, from time to time, to deal with any immediate concerns that may arise. Members of the NTFC will be notified in advance of meetings, their proposed agendas and any discussion papers, in order to maximise the preparation time and effective participation of members.

6 Functions

- 6.1 The NTFC will perform the following functions:
- i. Facilitate communication and cooperation between relevant Government, private sector and civil society bodies in order to reduce practical impediments to Fiji's external trade. This function will involve:
 - ◆ Providing a forum in which private sector and civil society institutions can raise issues of concern regarding trade facilitation.
 - ◆ Providing a forum in which Government bodies can report on existing and proposed policies and procedures that affect Fiji's external trade.
 - ii. Suggest legislative, regulatory, institutional and procedural change, to facilitate trade. This function will involve:
 - ◆ Recommending timeframes for responses by Government bodies to concerns raised by private sector and civil society institutions, in order to

- ◆ Fiji Islands Customs Services (Chair);
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement – Quarantine Division
- ◆ Ministry of Fisheries and Forests;
- ◆ Ministry of Finance and National Planning;
- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Department of Environment;
- ◆ Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau;
- ◆ Reserve Bank of Fiji;
- ◆ Maritime and Ports Authority of Fiji;
- ◆ Ports Terminal Limited;
- ◆ Airports Fiji Limited;
- ◆ Air Terminal Services;
- ◆ Fiji Institute of Freight Forwarders and Customs House Agents; and
- ◆ Other relevant private sector and civil society institutions.

7.3 The second Sub-committee shall be the **Quarantine/Bio-security and Health Sub-committee**.

- The areas for consideration by the Quarantine/Bio-security and Health Sub-committee shall include:
 - ◆ Quarantine procedures, timeliness and costs;
 - ◆ Timeliness and effectiveness of responses to quarantine threats (both imports and exports);
 - ◆ Quarantine delays in international markets;
 - ◆ Dissemination of quarantine information;
 - ◆ International cooperation between quarantine authorities;
 - ◆ Quarantine human resources, management structure and relevant ICTs.
 - ◆ Cooperation between agricultural research and extension bodies and quarantine;
 - ◆ Development of export standards/certification and export licence issue protocol; and
 - ◆ Best-practice quarantine legislation.
- The membership of the Quarantine/Bio-security and Health Sub-committee shall be:
 - ◆ Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement – Quarantine Division (Chair)
 - ◆ Ministry of Fisheries and Forests;
 - ◆ Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau;
 - ◆ Ministry of Health
 - ◆ Department of Environment; and
 - ◆ Relevant private sector (i.e. produce exporters and importers) and civil society institutions.

7.4 The third Sub-committee shall be the **Standards Sub-committee**.

- The areas for consideration by the Standards Sub-committee shall include:

- ◆ Accreditation and certification systems;
- ◆ Safety, quality, labelling and information standards;
- ◆ Management structure and human resources of TSAC;
- ◆ Best-practice standards legislation;
- ◆ Information dissemination on standards;
- ◆ Consideration of relevant ICTs;
- ◆ Participation in ISO; and
- ◆ Regional and international standards harmonisation.
- The membership of the Standards Sub-committee shall be:
 - ◆ Ministry of Commerce, Business Development and Investment – Trade Standards Advisory Council (Chair);
 - ◆ Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau;
 - ◆ Ministry of Health
 - ◆ Department of Environment;
 - ◆ Ministry of Labour;
 - ◆ Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement – Quarantine Division;
 - ◆ Ministry of Fisheries and Forests;
 - ◆ University of the South Pacific;
 - ◆ Fiji Institute of Technology;
 - ◆ National Codex Committee;
 - ◆ Consumer Council of Fiji;
 - ◆ Other relevant private sector and civil society institutions.

7.5 The fourth Sub-committee shall be the **Immigration and Passenger Clearance Sub-committee**.

- The areas for consideration by the Immigration Sub-committee shall include:
 - ◆ Ship and aircraft passenger clearance procedures and documentation;
 - ◆ Visa (including work permit) procedure transparency;
 - ◆ Harmonisation with international standards and conventions on immigration procedures; and
 - ◆ Port and airport infrastructure, human resources, management structures and relevant ICTs.
- The membership of the Immigration Sub-committee shall be:
 - ◆ Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration - Department of Immigration (Chair);
 - ◆ Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Productivity;
 - ◆ Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority;
 - ◆ Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau;
 - ◆ Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement - Quarantine Division;
 - ◆ Ministry of Health
 - ◆ Department of Environment;
 - ◆ Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration;

- ◆ Ports Terminal Limited;
- ◆ Airports Fiji Limited;
- ◆ Fiji Visitors Bureau;
- ◆ Relevant private sector and civil society (i.e. trade union) institutions.

7.6 Each Sub-committee will perform the five functions of the NTFC in the limited sphere of their areas of consideration. Trade facilitation issues raised at Sub-committee level but outside the mandate of the particular Sub-committee should be referred either to the relevant Sub-committee or to the NTFC.

7.7 Each Sub-committee will meet regularly in the initial stages of establishment, and then as is necessary from time to time, when Sub-committee members or other relevant bodies bring issues to the Sub-committee Chair that warrant attention. Following any Sub-committee activity, that Sub-committee will be accountable to report such activities to the NTFC at its next regular meeting.

8 Review and Evaluation

8.1 On an annual basis, the NTFC undertakes to review its activities, evaluate its effectiveness, and recommend and implement strategies for continuous improvement. This review and evaluation shall be made available to members of the NTFC and each Sub-committee, and shall be accessible to the broader public.

Annex 3

ROLE OF TRADE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Trade Development Committee (TDC) is a key inter-Ministerial body that oversees the formulation, negotiation and implementation of Fiji's trade related economic policies.

The Committee undertakes research and strategic planning in determining, securing and promoting Fiji's trading and economic interests; through formulating country positions and negotiating strategies in trade related international negotiations and multilateral conferences. The Committee is also responsible for analysing current trends and developments in international commerce and providing technical advice on the multilateral trading environment, as espoused by the WTO.

Non-State Actors

The Cabinet, on 5 June 2001, approved (decision no. CGP(01)87) that the Trade Development Committee consisting of relevant Government Departments and Ministries be extended to represent non-state actors or the members of the civil society(NGOs) and the private sector.

This wider role of the TDC is inline with drive in international bodies such as the European Commission and the WTO, of a participatory approach and the representation and involvement of non-state actors in international trade in all stages, leading on from negotiations to implementation of trading arrangements.

The Cotonou Agreement, for example, views trading arrangements as a form of partnership amongst all sectors of the society in member states. This comes from the recognition that governments rarely produce products tradable under external trade framework. In most cases, the private sector utilises trading arrangements to facilitate exports and imports.

The involvement of NGO and other non-state actors ensures that the new partnership arrangements proceed along the lines of political dialogue, incorporating many different aspects of cooperation such as good governance, human rights, democracy and rule of law, themes central to the development of all sectors of the society i.e. stakeholders.