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:
The National Development Plan titled Vision 2020 has five development pillars. The third pillar which speaks to Enabling Competitive Business focuses on fulfilling three macroeconomic goals. To realize the goal which emphasises that competitive businesses will transform T & T into a diversified economy with exciting growth opportunities requires the MTI to set in place strategies to grow and develop trade and trade-related activities.

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:

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: 0

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade Policy and Regulations</th>
<th>Trade Policy Analysis, Negotiation and Implementation</th>
<th>Economic Infrastructure</th>
<th>Network infrastructure (power, water, telecom)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WTO Accession costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Facilitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cross-border Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Building Productive Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Export Diversification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Competitiveness</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Value Chains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Regional Integration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Adjustment costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 Regional Integration</th>
<th>Other, please describe:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 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* The Government has identified in Vision 2020 the need to institute measures to increase both the value of our trade and the number of companies that engage in trade as well as the new markets we penetrate. The strategies will include enhancing market intelligence to identify new opportunities for trade diversification and opportunities for new markets; expanding the export base of key sectors; working with the business community to prepare more businesses and first-time exporters to successfully engage in international trade; undertaking trade missions and export promotion activities; and the branding of Trinidad and Tobago products. Government will also intensify efforts to make Spanish the first foreign language of Trinidad and Tobago to enhance the ability of exporters to exploit opportunities in the Latin American Market.

**Priority 2: Competitiveness**

- **Yes**
- **Being formulated**
- **No**

*If Yes or Being formulated, please describe* Competitiveness is defined as enhancing the productivity growth of the non-energy sector. The Ministry has concentrated its efforts on five key areas:-

1. Upgrading the institutional framework- Several pieces of legislation and where necessary new policies are being framed to inform the creation of new laws to support growth in trade, business and investment e.g. a Fair Trading Act #13 of 2006 has been created to remove restrictive measures that reduce competition and access to markets. Trinidad and Tobago has also actively participated in the establishment of a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Competition Commission to deal with issues involving anticompetitive conduct in other member states. An Investment Policy Document has been drafted to inform the writing of a new piece of legislation, an Investment Promotion Act to attract both local and foreign investments. The government has also institutionalised mechanisms for the private sector to participate in the decision-making process– the creation of a Standing Committee on Business Development and a Technical Co-ordinating Committee comprising stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

2. Assistance in Promoting Higher Education and Training. This factor is critical if T & T wishes to move higher up the value chain beyond simple processes to improve the overall trade performance. Several On-the-Job Training Programmes and Internship Programmes are executed.

3. Improving Market Efficiency-T&T is an open economy and to improve market efficiencies, integration is realised at the regional (CSME), bi-lateral (CARICOM/Costa Rica etc, and multilateral level (EPA)

4. Raise the level of Business Sophistication-A concerted effort is being made to foster the clustering of interconnected firms in strategic geographic locations to support the growth of specific industries. A one-stop-shop for investment is ongoing to facilitate the ease of doing business.


**Priority 3: Regional Integration**

- **Yes**
- **Being formulated**
- **No**

*If Yes or Being formulated, please describe* Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory and active Member to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy on July 5, 2001. The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas promotes the deeper integration among CARICOM Countries and it is expected to...
result in reforms aimed at realising the objectives outlines in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) Treaty. The CSME, in addition to establishing free trade in goods and services and a Common External Tariff, envisions the free movement of capital and labour (professionals and skilled labour) throughout the Caribbean Community. While the CSME is an arrangement in which foreign exchange and interest rate policies, tax regimes, laws and common currency, among other things, are coordinated and harmonized, efforts are on the way by Member States to fully operationalise the tenets of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Most of Trinidad and Tobago’s non-energy products are exported to CARICOM countries and given that the exports have saturated the CARICOM market, the Government has identified the need to accelerate the search for new markets outside the region starting with countries within close proximity namely our Latin American neighbours and then moving to penetrate new markets beyond.

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:

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure/ NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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'*

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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:

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 Government of Trinidad and Tobago utilizes the following institutional structure allowing for participation of elements of private sector and civil society in the policy making as well as, in the negotiation of trade agreements. At present, there exists a Cabinet appointed Technical Coordinating Committee which is supported by sub-committees on agriculture, non-agriculture market access, services, investment and government procurement. These sub-committees offer input on various subject matter to the TCC who in turn takes a decision on the specific issues at hand.

Additionally, there is a Standing Advisory Committee on Trade and Trade-Related Matters. The mandate of this committee is similar to the work conducted by the various sub-committees offering inputs on trade and trade-related issues to the TCC.

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.]

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has the principal responsibility for formulating Trade Policy and negotiating and implementing trade agreements. However, it does not execute these functions in
isolation, but with the active participation from other Ministries and all sections of civil society through meetings, and public consultations and symposiums. The main stakeholders are private sector associations such as the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Manufacturers’ Association, Coalition of Services Industries, Banker’s Association; other Ministries such as Labour, Finance, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs; state agencies such as the Business Development Company Limited and Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited; and Non-Governmental Organisations and academia (University of the West Indies). The Ministry of Trade and Industry consults with the relevant industry stakeholder as needed on the specific issue to be resolved.

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Rarely or Never</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint needs assessments</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-financing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector-wide approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Implementation</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other, please describe:</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Rarely or Never</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donors’ monitoring and evaluation results</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint monitoring and evaluation arrangements</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Own monitoring and evaluation arrangements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Own monitoring but joint/donor evaluation</td>
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</table>

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.]

**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?

**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:
- Stronger donor focus on capacity development:
- Better predictability of aid for trade funding:
- More extensive use of Budget Support (or Trade Sectoral Wide Approaches)
- More regular joint-donor implementation actions
- More harmonised reporting requirements
- More frequent joint donor-partner implementation efforts
More systematic use of joint donor-partner monitoring and evaluation

Other, please describe:

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

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

Area 2

Area 3

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:

Trinidad and Tobago has signed on to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. This was in an effort to enhance cooperation within the Region and to become more integrated, thus benefiting from economies of scale and seeking to reduce capacity constraints. Further, given the Region’s limited human and financial resources, trade negotiations had to be approached in a coordinated way. In this regard, the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) was established in April 1997, with the mandate 'to develop, coordinate and execute an overall negotiating strategy for various external negotiations in which the Region is involved.'

#### 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.]

The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) meets twice a year to discuss matters relating to the operations of the Revised Treaty, issues relating to the Common External Tariff, external trade negotiations, and implementation of the CSME. Special Meetings of the COTED are also held as necessary during the year, which focus on one particular issue, for example, agriculture. In addition, several regional meetings are held during the year which focus on particular trade issues, and from which recommendations are forwarded to the COTED. Further, there are standing committees which have been established which report to the COTED, such as the Customs Committee. At a higher political level, regional trade matters are discussed at the Council of Ministers and the Heads of Government. Participation at the meetings of the COTED are of particular importance to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago’s national interests are fully incorporated into the regional positions which emerge from these meetings.

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

The CARICOM region benefits from various aid-for-trade programmes. One programme that is actively utilized by the region and offers capacity building is administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation. Trinidad and Tobago is an active participant whereby members of various Ministries have attended courses such as the WTO Trade Policy Courses both regionally and Geneva based; and topic specific courses in Trade Negotiating Skills, NAMA, Agriculture, TRIPs, Services, Technical Barriers to Trade, Rules and Notifications. 

- End of Section 4 -

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

-- Thank you --