

## Chapter II.D

# International trade as an engine for development

## 1. Introduction

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledges that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction. It notes that, with appropriate supporting policies, infrastructure and an educated work force, trade can also help to



## 2. Strengthening the multilateral trading system

A key message of the Addis Agenda is that, in order to make trade an engine for economic growth and poverty reduction, Member States will promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO (79, MoI 17.10). The indicator for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be an input (17.10.1 *or* - *i e e e i t e t a i - a e r a*), but does not effectively track trade policy developments. To follow-up on the commitments in the Addis Agenda, monitoring of these five areas will be crucial to determining how strong the multilateral trading system has become.

### 2.1. Special and differential arrangements/least developed countries

- *Commitments of members to improve trade*



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The WTO regularly reviews the implementation of the decisions in the Bali Package. A report by the Chairman of the General Council on implementation of the Bali outcomes is a standing item at meetings of the WTO General Council.

Regarding the Bali decisions on regular work under the General Council, on TRIPS non-violation and situation complaints, Members at the Tenth Ministerial Conference decided to continue examination of this issue and make recommendations at the next Ministerial Conference. In the meantime, it was also agreed that Members will not initiate such complaints under the TRIPS Agreement.

On Aid for Trade, Ministers at the Tenth Ministerial Conference recognized, inter alia, the importance of and continuing need for the Aid-for-Trade Initiative. A new Aid-for-Trade work programme with the theme of “Promoting Connectivity” has been developed for the period 2016–2017 (see paragraph 3.3). (See also section 3.3 below.)

On Trade and Transfer of Technology, the Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology has in its Annual Report recommended that it continues to work to fully achieve its mandate.

Other areas of the Bali and Nairobi packages where specific decisions were taken are analysed under the sections where the respective commitments have been elaborated. These include Trade Facilitation, DFQF, Preferential Rules of Origin, the Services Waiver and the Monitoring Mechanism on special and differential treatment.

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eral to report regularly to the General Council on these efforts. While Members concurred that officials should prioritize work where results have not yet been achieved, some wished to identify and discuss other issues for negotiation; others did not. Members also clarified that any decision to launch negotiations multilaterally on such issues would need to be agreed by all Members.

At the Tenth Ministerial Conference, Members celebrated the enlargement of the WTO by accessions, in accordance with Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement. Two LDCs completed their respective accession processes at the Tenth Ministerial Conference: Afghanistan and Liberia. WTO Members remain committed to work towards completing and facilitating current accessions; and to provide pre and post-accession technical assistance and support. The WTO Director General reports







category A notifications, and had begun to present the first Category B and C notifications. The WTO has also received 70 instruments of acceptance which is close to the two thirds of ratifying Members required for the Trade Facilitation Agreement to enter into force.

## 4. Promoting policy coherence in trade

The Addis Agenda calls for greater coherence specifically with a view to: (i) creating domestic enabling environments; (ii) achieving coherence and consistency among bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements and their compatibility with WTO rules; (iii) promoting development-friendly trade and investment agreements; (iv) enhancing women's equal and active participation in international trade; and (v) strengthening international agency/commission relevant to trade, trade laws and development; and (iv) combatting illegal trade, poaching and trafficking of protected species, hazardous waste, minerals and other natural resources.

### 4.1. Development at the local level: the domestic enabling environment for trade

The Addis Agenda acknowledges the importance of the domestic enabling environment. Tracking improvements in this area is discussed in Chapter II. B and its subsections 2 (investment climate), 4 (poli-

the WTO's Transparency Mechanism for RTAs which has been operational since December 2006. Furthermore, under the Transparency Mechanism, the WTO maintains a database (the Regional Trade Agreements Information System — [rtais.wto.org](http://rtais.wto.org)) which contains information on all RTAs reported to the WTO and that have been examined or considered by the appropriate Committee; the informa-

trans-continental road and rail networks in regions with landlocked developing countries.<sup>5</sup>

### 4.3. Trade and Investment Agreements

Closely related to the commitments in section 4.2 above, the Addis Agenda focuses on ensuring trade and investment agreements would not undermine countries' ability to pursue public policy objectives (91). In this respect, the Addis Agenda puts forward the following commitments:

- Ensure that trade and investment agreements do not undermine countries' ability to pursue public policy objectives (91)
- Commit to improve trade and investment agreements (91)
- Commit to support appropriate investment and trade policies that do not undermine countries' ability to pursue public policy objectives (91)
- The CADT will continue to support investment and trade agreements (91)

UNCTAD publishes recurrent analysis of trends in international investment agreements (IIAs) and investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS), including in its World Investment Report series, which includes data on investment agreements and their provisions. UNCTAD's IIA<sup>6</sup> and ISDS<sup>7</sup> navigators can be used for assessing whether the contents of IIAs constrain domestic policies and regulation in the public interest. In addition, the WTO's Transparency Mechanism for RTAs and the Regional Trade Agreements Information System provides information on existing RTAs, which may be used for assessing whether the contents of a trade agreement constrain domestic policies and regulation in the public interest.

At this stage, there is no international framework that comprehensively tracks the transparent implementation of trade and investment agreements, nor on capacity building specifically in this regard. Capacity building can be monitored through OECD data, as well as from inputs from Task Force agencies engaged in capacity building in this area, with further detail included above under Aid for Trade. Action Area II.G also contains information about following up on capacity building support. Qualitative information and case studies can examine the use of safeguards in treaties.

A request to UNCTAD to continue its existing programme of meetings and consultations on investment agreements will, among other matters, be addressed at the upcoming Fourteenth session of UNCTAD (UNCTAD 14), due to take place B(, d)su g

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Addis Agenda is unique in that it links issues in the global partnership for sustainable development, including trade, to gender issues. Outcomes in the gender and trade area can be assessed by having gender disaggregated trade data, such as the female share of seasonal and permanent jobs in export-oriented sectors, gender wage gaps, female share of high-skilled and managerial jobs in export-oriented sectors, and work conditions and social benefits for women in the export sector relative to the domestic sector. Specific policies to address the challenges women face to equal and active participation in trade can be presented in case studies such as those conducted by UNCTAD. Disaggregated firm level information that would allow reconciling trade and gender issues is essential for assessing the impact of trade on women's employment and income. This information is also needed to design policies that address the specific needs of women in the export sector.

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countries face in combating illegal wildlife trade,

