

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE

Cancels & replaces the same document of 19 November 2004

DRAFT AGENDA

Informal Meeting on Trade Capacity Building Workshops

3 December 2004 - 14:00
OECD - La Murette - Room 8

As follow up to the London Conference on Trade, Growth and Poverty Reduction held in December 2003, the objective of this informal meeting on trade capacity building is to (1) take stock of ongoing initiatives to strengthen implementation of trade capacity building; (2) assess the need for and value added of further regional workshops as a means of mainstreaming trade into the poverty reduction strategy processes and support pro-poor growth approaches to pursuing the Millennium Development Goals, and (3) agree on a plan for carrying them out. This will also be an opportunity for DAC and other interested OECD members to share views on strategic directions for trade capacity building work in the context of the DAC or POVNET.

DAC Members are requested to forward this agenda to appropriate contact persons in capitals.

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JT00174272

INFORMAL MEETING ON TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Integration into the world economy through trade and investment is a key condition for strengthening the growth dynamics in developing countries in ways that involve the poor in generating and benefiting from economic growth. The challenge for developing countries is therefore to identify the appropriate policy mix to strengthen productive capacity and competitiveness, taking adjustment costs into account, and to mainstream the productive sectors into country-owned poverty reduction strategy processes. The challenge for donors is to facilitate this process at the country level, strengthen support for trade capacity building in response to country driven priorities and to work with national counterparts to provide greater access to markets.

1. The purpose of the informal meeting on trade capacity building workshops will be to (1) follow-up on the *Conference on Trade, Growth, and Poverty*, held in London 8-9 December, 2003 and (2) share views on strategic directions for TCB work in the OECD DAC. More specifically it will consider ways, such as through regional workshops or other events, to strengthen country level implementation of trade capacity building activities.

2. The minutes of the *Conference on Trade, Growth and Poverty* stressed the need for a “South to South” dialogue on the role of trade in development, with regional conferences presenting an opportunity to strengthen implementation of trade capacity building activities in country. As with related work in the joint DAC-WTO meetings on trade capacity building as well as DAC regional workshops in Mombasa (August 2002) and Phnom Penh (December 2003), the conference further highlighted a lack of “coordination” in donors’ approaches to trade and poverty reduction and the importance of integrating trade into the poverty reduction strategies of developing countries. Some specific action points from the conference set the stage for discussion at this 3 December meeting:

- During the preparatory stage of the London Conference several agencies had agreed to consider regional outreach, and expressed their interest in organizing regional workshops on trade, growth, and poverty.
- A number of activities have been initiated, notably in Africa, including by UNCTAD, UNDP, and the World Bank, and by Nordic countries, and we would be interested to learn about the status of this work.
- For other regions—including Latin America, Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia—it is unclear at this point how the work is being taken forward.
- We all agree that strengthening the productive content (including trade) of PRSPs and better informed domestic debate of trade issues in low-income countries must be an important objective, which was supported by the participants of the London Conference.
- We suggest that all our agencies (both multilateral and bilateral) give thought to whether and how we could facilitate and take forward regional follow-up activities on trade, growth, and poverty over the coming months.

3. We hope that representatives of the development and trade communities in capitals, with decision making and implementation responsibilities in the area of trade capacity building, will participate in this meeting and be prepared to take decisions on the proposals under consideration.

DRAFT AGENDA

*Friday 3rd December 2004 – OECD, La Murette, room 8
14:00 -18:00*

14:00-15:00 Item 1 - Update on regional events and outputs on trade, growth and poverty reduction

Introductory remarks: Natalia Koliadina, IMF; Richard Carey, OECD/DCD

This session will provide a report on past and planned regional events and outputs by international organizations and bilateral aid agencies to update participants on the purpose and outcomes, value added and lessons learned. The DAC Secretariat will also present its work programme in the area of trade capacity building for 2005-6.

15:00-17:00 Item 2 - Objectives of follow up events

Introductory remarks: Susan Prowse, DFID

This session will clarify the purpose, priorities and modalities in planning further events/outputs aimed at setting the stage for sustainable trade capacity building actions at country level. Objectives could include:

- Foster dialogue between public and private sector actors on trade with a view to institutionalizing collaboration and strengthening trade policy processes at the country level;
- Support the process of- and capacity for- identifying needs, developing action plans and designing concrete and costed project proposals;
- Strengthen the productive content (including trade) of the poverty reduction strategies of low income countries and move forward their implementation;
- Support the efforts of the Integrated Framework and JITAP in trade capacity building at the country level;
- Foster knowledge dissemination and sharing of good practices among regional stakeholders on trade, growth and poverty linkages.

17:00-17:30 Item 3 - Next steps

This session will sum up the discussion and identify next steps with regard to value added, scope, timeframe, roles and resources for holding further regional workshops in developing countries and enhance synergies with other events/outputs of relevance to trade and development.