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WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2016

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INCLUSIVE TRADE IN ACP COUNTRIES

The Public Forum is the WTO's largest annual outreach event, which provides a platform for participants to discuss the latest developments in world trade and to propose ways of enhancing the multilateral trading system. "Inclusive Trade" was the theme of the 2016 Public Forum held at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva on 27-29 September. In the framework of this forum, TradeCom II in collaboration with the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission organised a debate titled "Technical Assistance for a More Inclusive Trade for the Benefit of ACP Countries".

The session addressed issues related to the provision of technical assistance support to ACP countries the majority of whom are LDCs and developing countries. These are the countries whose integration into the multilateral trading system is yet to be completed. In that regard, they need differentiated rules and capacity building programmes to help them reduce the inherent trading gap but also to enable them play an active and beneficial role in the multilateral trade negotiations. The panelists focused on, *inter alia*, the following non-exhaustive questions:

- How to identify and formulate achievable inclusive trade results in a context of international trade assistance?
- What are the challenges in achieving inclusive trade outcomes through technical assistance programmes?
- What are good practices in inclusive trade technical assistance?



The session considered the following five main areas of sources and delivery of technical assistance interventions for the benefit of the ACP countries:

1. Overall technical assistance support to the ACP Group in Geneva with respect to building human and institutional capacities aimed at enhancing the Group's effective participation in the multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO - by **Felix MONERA**, Deputy Head, ACP Geneva Office (Geneva);
2. The European Commission's TRA for the ACP Group building on the EC's commitment under the Aid for Trade arrangement but also in the context of responding to the ambition of promoting sustainable development as part of the SDGs targets; the latter shaping the EC's and beneficiaries' strategy to attain inclusiveness through the various TRA programmes and replication of "good practices" gained over



the years - by **Koen ROSSEL-CAMBIER** - Programme Manager, DEVCO Intra-ACP Private Sector and Trade, European Commission (Brussels);

3. The OIF strategic and inclusive interventions targeting youth and women entrepreneurs in addition to the upstream technical assistance support but also with a pronounced emphasis on beneficiary management of implementation of such interventions - by **Antoine BARBRY** - Adviser Economic & Development, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie OIF (Geneva);
4. Targeted support to the SMEs and Small ACP States to expand their trade performance but also enhancing their capacities to participate effectively in the different tiers of trade negotiations - by **Zhuawu COLLIN** - Adviser Economic Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat (Geneva);
5. The TradeComII Programme's new phenomena of TRA enshrined in the demand-driven framework of designing technical assistance support based on the expression of interest from the ultimate beneficiaries; complimented by the grants in trade-related areas - by **Ahmed NDYESHOBOLA** - Team Leader, TradeCom II (ACP-EU Programme).

The session was opened by Ambassador **Marwa KISIRI**, Head of the ACP Geneva Office (Geneva); and moderated by **El Hadji DIOUF** - Multilateral Trade Expert, TradeCom II (ACP-EU Programme).

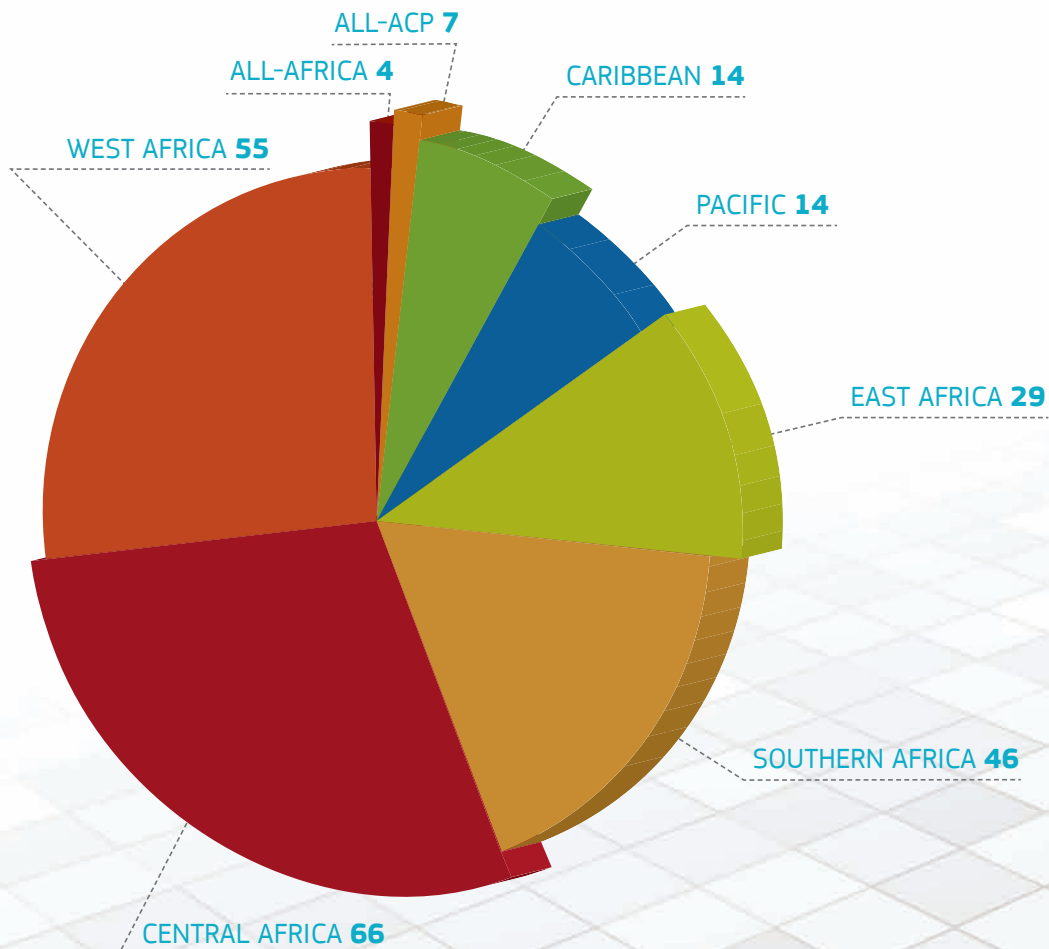


FOCUS ON PMU ACTIVITIES

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

TARGETED SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIFORUM-EPA

The project was designed to support the EPA Unit and CARIFORUM Member States to strengthen their capacity to implement the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

CARIFORUM countries and the EU started the EPA negotiations in April 2004 with an ambitious negotiating roadmap covering the full range of trade issues. The EPA covers trade in goods and services, investment, trade related issues including innovation and intellectual property as well as links to development cooperation.

The agreement signed in October 2008 reflects that content and forms a comprehensive and far reaching agreement. It aims at establishing a trade partnership consistent with the then Millennium Development Goals (presently the SDGs) and the Cotonou Agreement. The CARIFORUM-EU EPA promotes the gradual integration of the CARIFORUM Member States into the world economy, in accordance with their political choices and development priorities.

To facilitate the implementation of the EPA, CARIFORUM established a regional EPA Implementation Unit to provide direct support on technical, legal services and to coordinate technical assistance in Member States. The EPA implementation unit became operational on 1st July 2009 but faces a number of challenges, especially in the form of institutional and operational capacity. The lack of financial and human resources to accommodate the increased demands related to its implementation has become a hindrance for the EPA implementation process.

This project developed by the TradeCom II programme in collaboration with the CARIFORUM Directorate provides a timely opportunity to address the inherent challenges and thus, facilitate the effective EPA implementation.

Divided in three components, the project will be launched in December 2016 for a duration of 12 months.

The first component will enhance the legal and regulatory framework of CARIFORUM States by supporting the enhancement of the legal and regulatory framework of the CARIFORUM States by, *inter alia*, updating the four service sector model bills. The project will also support the preparation of a Mutual Recognition Agreement [the CARIFORUM MRA].

The second component will support the effective monitoring of the EPA through the design and operationalization of a monitoring system, and revision of the EPA Implementation Roadmap. The new Monitoring System will be based on internationally accepted monitoring and evaluation principles that can be effected at the national and regional levels.

The third component will promote awareness activities, in particular knowledge sharing regarding the opportunities and benefits of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, through the preparation of public education materials.

SUPPORT TO THE EAC FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TFTA AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT TO THE EU MARKET

The project was developed by the TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC) to support the implementation of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement (TFTA).

The TFTA is a free trade agreement that brings together members and partner States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). Signed in June 2015, the Tripartite Free Trade Area is based on three main pillars: market integration, infrastructure development and industrial development. Reflecting numerous obstacles to trade in the region and the need to increase and diversify industrial production and improve transport infrastructure, its main purpose is to boost intra-regional trade, develop cross-regional infrastructure and increase investment.

The one-year project will start in December 2016 / January 2017 and will focus on the following key strategic areas for the EAC region:

- 📍 The development of a framework to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) faced by local business communities and improve its monitoring to ensure the conversion of market access offered by the TFTA on goods into meaningful market presence.
- 📍 The design of the first long term Export Promotion Strategy (2017-2030) to consider the opportunities arising from the new trade environment in particular the TFTA and forthcoming trade agreements, and a review of the implementation of the EAC Export Promotion Strategy (2013-2016) in terms of opportunities, challenges and lessons learnt;
- 📍 The implementation of a strategy for continuous engagement with the business community, including women and youth entrepreneurs by promoting awareness activities on the trading opportunities and benefits under the Tripartite, TFTA and EU markets.

Glossary

ACP	Africa Caribbean and Pacific
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDD	European Development Days
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FTA	Free Trade Area
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NTB	Non-Tariff barriers
NTPF	National Trade Policy Framework
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
PACPS	Pacific ACP States
PIFs	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PMU	Programme Management Unit
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RTA	Regional Trade Agreement
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable development goals
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TRA	Trade-Related Assistance
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TPF	Trade Policy Framework
TTIP	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Upcoming events



NOVEMBER

104th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers
ACP House
 Brussels, 29-30 November

DECEMBER

19th ACP Ministerial Trade Committee
ACP House
 Brussels, 05-08 December

14th ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee (JMTC)
Charlemagne Building
 Brussels, 09 Decembe

TRADECOM II PROGRAMME
 BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY
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TRADECOM II GRANT SCHEME

INFORMATION SESSION

An information session on the Grant scheme of the TradeCom II Programme was held on 26th September 2016 at the ACP House in Brussels. It was organized by the ACP Secretariat in collaboration with the European Commission and the TradeCom II PMU to inform the stakeholders on the content of the call for proposals and the procedures that applies to the Call. Thanks to the presence of ACP delegates, the information session offered a unique opportunity to promote the launch of the TradeCom II Grant Scheme among the targeted countries.

The event was chaired by **Viwanou GNASSOUNOU**, Assistant Secretary-General (ACP Secretariat). **Antti KARHUNEN**, Head of Unit C4 (DG DEVCO) and **Ahmed NDYESHOBOLA**, Team Leader (TradeCom II) introduced the Grant scheme. **José LAMBIZA**, Administrative and Financial Expert (TradeCom II) presented the guidelines for the grant applicants.



The information session started with a presentation of the key elements of the TradeCom II Grant Scheme, with continuous reference to the Guidelines for Applicants, and the Grant Application Form. It provided an explanation of the specific objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposals, the rules on the eligibility of applicants, the types of actions and costs which are eligible for financing.

The meeting was concluded by an interactive questions and answers session, during which the participants had the opportunity to better understand selection and award criteria specified in the Call for Proposals.



The meeting was well attended by delegates from the ACP countries, representatives of civil society and trade support organizations.



For more information:

Report of the Information session is available via the EuropeAid website at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/2fviae4>

Clarifications – Phase 1 Call for proposals is available on the following link:

<http://bit.ly/2edCLh7>