

# DONOR QUESTIONNAIRE ON AID FOR TRADE

## 1 WHAT IS YOUR AID FOR TRADE STRATEGY?

**Q1.1 Do you have an operational Aid for Trade strategy? Does it have a “pro-poor” focus? What are its key objectives and delivery/implementation modes?** (Please break down by types of aid: "multilateral contributions" / "trust funds" / "budget support" / "other bilateral")

*Please describe and exemplify. If applicable, feel free to refer to your 2007 response.*

The Swiss AfT-Strategy is an integral part of the Economic Development Cooperation Strategy which seeks to promote the integration of partner countries in the world economy by supporting stable macroeconomic conditions, encouraging foreign investment, strengthening trade capacities and by building basic urban infrastructure, with the overall goal of sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty. The division for Economic Development Co-operation is hosted within the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) as the federal government’s Centre of expertise for all core issues relating to economic policy such as trade and labour issues. Within this framework, the core element of the Swiss AfT strategy is mainly related to SECO's trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) as crucial complement to WTO Doha round. The TRTA is structured around the following main areas: 1) Support trade policy (strengthen trade policy formulation and implementation capacities in partner countries and in Geneva, including WTO accession, intellectual property, competition, etc.). 2) Facilitate access to the Swiss and European market (Swiss Import Promotion Programme - SIPPO - aimed at SMEs in developing countries, the Swiss General System of Preferences, and the support to labels such as fair trade and organic production). 3) Increase supply side capacities (strengthening trade efficiency, standard compliance, trade finance, etc.) 4) Environment and social criteria within trade (clean production, ILO norms, sustainability standards in commodity trade, etc.)

**Q1.2 If your Aid for Trade Strategy has evolved since 2007, please describe the changes and/or new focuses.**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

Swiss Parliament approved in 2008 two new mandates (i.e. Framework Credits 2009-2012) for the cooperation of SECO and SDC with developing countries. Therein, the strategy for the Swiss Government's development cooperation contains three pillars: (1) reducing poverty; (2) reducing security risks; and (3) shaping a form of globalisation that promotes development. Within the two first pillars, SDC's core-themes are predominant. Priority shall be given to the poorest countries. The third pillar place the emphasis on SECO's economic and trade-related measures and thus covers the core of the Aid for Trade Initiative. Geographically, priority shall be given to lower-middle income developing countries converting them into regional development hubs also for the poorest countries. Accordingly, SECO will focus its bilateral economic and trade-related assistance on 7 middle-income countries with 50% of its financial resources. The remaining 50% of the budget envelope will be used in the context of thematic programs, either globally or regionally (particularly benefitting LDCs), in the areas of SECO's competences and implemented through specialized multilateral partners such as IFC, ITC, UNIDO, World Bank, ILO, IMF and regional development banks.

Within SECO's main instruments of economic cooperation special emphasis will be given to "climate, energy and environment" as well as to "economic governance, corporate governance and the fight against corruption". These transversal themes are explicitly mentioned in SECO's renewed mandate.

**Q1.3 Have you articulated a set of best practices in the design and/or delivery of Aid for Trade?**

Yes

No

Not sure/Not applicable

**If yes, what form does this best practice guidance take?**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

Though not exclusively related to AfT, SECO pursues an Evaluation Policy that defines the key principles, responsibilities and organizational arrangements guiding the evaluation function in the Department of Economic Cooperation and Development. It is complementary to the Evaluation Guidelines, a tool aiming at supporting SECO staff in the planning, commissioning and use of evaluations.

## 2 HOW MUCH AID FOR TRADE DO YOU PROVIDE?

*For CRS Reporting Donors*

**Q2.1 Does the attached CRS profile accurately reflect the volume of your Aid for Trade?**

Yes

No

**If no, please provide further details of your Aid for Trade activities for 2006 and 2007.**

*Please add any data that are missing in their appropriate CRS categories, including those activities that should be considered as Aid for Trade under the category of "Other Trade-related Needs" and describe, if applicable, the method used to identify trade-related activities in the relevant CRS categories. Please also provide any activities that may fall under the new category of "Trade-related Adjustment" for 2006.*

CRS data 2007 are fine in principle. But the overall CRS country profile does not adequately capture the evolution of Aid for Trade delivered by Switzerland since 2002. As main problems were identified:

- 1) CRS data 2002-06 strongly differ from data reported to the (now-defunct) joint WTO-OECD Trade Capacity Building database (TCB database). Enormous differences were noticed particularly under the code trade policy and regulation where CRS data suggest much larger disbursements than under TCB data.
- 2) CRS data 2002-2006 do not include a Trade Development Marker and therefore hinder a reliable intertemporal comparison under the category building productive capacity.

*For non-CRS Reporting Donors*

**Q2.1 How much Aid for Trade did you provide in each of 2006 and 2007?  
Please also indicate the volume as percentage share of your total ODA.**

*Please use the WTO Task Force definition and include estimates of the value of in-kind Aid for Trade such as technical cooperation programmes.*

*For All Donor Agencies*

**Q2.2 Do you have indicative forward spending plans that include estimates on Aid for Trade?**

Yes

No

Not sure/Not applicable

**If yes, please provide details of your indicative forward Aid for Trade spending plan.**

*Please delineate the plan per Aid for Trade category.*

**For Donors who had made Aid for Trade pledges**

**Q2.3 Please describe how you are meeting your pledges? And how much progress in delivering your final pledges do you expect to have made in 2008 and 2009?**

Please provide details and evidence in accordance with your accountability mechanism.

Switzerland did not made explicit AfT pledges comparable to the ones made by the three biggest donors in the scope of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005. A pledge has been made however at the event of the EIF Pledging Conference in Stockholm in September 2007, where Switzerland indicated a financial contribution for the implementation of EIF in the amount of USD 19 millions. Even if EIF has suffered from further delays in its implementation, by the end of 2008 Switzerland has started together with specialised multilateral agencies such as ITC, UNIDO, UNCTAD and ILO to prepare country-specific EIF programmes aimed at implementing the DTIS action matrix. The formulation phase for the development of three pilot programmes in Lao PDR, Tanzania and Mozambique is expected to end by mid-2009 leading into concrete programme implementation in the course of the second half of 2009.

**For Multilateral Donors**

**Q2.4 Please describe how funding for your Aid for Trade activities is evolving**  
[e.g. share of activities funded from your agency's core (regular budget) vs. non-core (earmarked) resources, including multi-donor funds; likely trends in these categories].

Please describe.

**Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to the volume of your Aid for Trade.**

**3 IMPLEMENTATION: HOW ARE YOU DELIVERING AID FOR TRADE?**

**Mainstreaming and Ownership**

**Q3.1 What measures have you undertaken to mainstream Aid for Trade in your overall assistance strategy?**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

The Department for Economic Cooperation and Development is hosted within the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) as the federal government's Centre of expertise for all core issues relating to economic policy with a strong focus on external trade relations. SECO's track record in "domestic AfT areas"

(trade negotiations, tariff and non tariff barriers, GSP, SME development, investment policy, etc.) helps to understand the need for AfT for (economic) development. In addition, the work of the Department aims at an optimal coherence between the objectives of development co-operation and those of foreign economic and trade policy. Within this framework, Switzerland's trade-related co-operation (or trade-related technical assistance-TRTA) is seen as a core element and is considered as crucial complement to the current WTO Doha Round.

**Q3.2 In how many of the partner countries you support, are Aid for Trade concerns an important part of your policy dialogue with them (based on your best estimate)?**

- |  |                                     |  |                                    |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than 25% | <input type="checkbox"/> 25% to 50% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50% to 75% | <input type="checkbox"/> above 75% | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure / Not applicable |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|

**Q3.3 How many of your country assistance strategies contain trade or Aid for Trade elements (based on your best estimate)?**

- |  |                                     |                                     |   |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than 25% | <input type="checkbox"/> 25% to 50% | <input type="checkbox"/> 50% to 75% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> above 75% | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure / Not applicable |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|

**Q3.4 Has demand for Aid for Trade increased from partner countries since 2005?**

- |  |                                    |  |                                   |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significantly increased | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Little / no change | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure / Not applicable |
|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|

**If increased, from which countries / regions, and for which Aid for Trade categories / sectors?**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

**If increased, what steps have you taken to strengthen your capacity to respond to increasing demand for Aid for Trade from partner countries? Tick the box of all that apply:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased aid resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthened in-house trade expertise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improved training, tool-kits and/or guidelines for Aid for Trade programming
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased awareness among policy-makers and practitioners at the HQ and the field
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthened political commitment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased coordination among donors (e.g. joint assessment, joint delivery, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Please feel free to add other steps you have taken</i>

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to mainstreaming and ownership.

### Working with Others: Harmonisation and Alignment

**Q3.5 In how many of the partner countries you support, have you contributed to the following joint donor initiatives?**

	< 10%	10-30%	> 30%
Joint needs assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Aid for Trade strategy formulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Aid for Trade programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pool funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint monitoring and evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delegated cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3.6 Do you have a specific approach to South-South and/or trilateral cooperation in Aid for Trade?**

Yes       No       Not sure/Not applicable

**If yes, what are its key elements or particular focuses?**

Please describe and exemplify.

**Q3.7 How much of your Aid for Trade is aligned with your partners' country systems (based on your best estimate)?**

less than 25%       25% to 50%       50% to 75%       above 75%       Not sure / Not applicable

Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to harmonisation and alignment.

## 4 MONITORING RESULTS, EVALUATION AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

**Q4.1 Does your Strategy include specific monitoring and evaluation guidelines for Aid for Trade programmes?**

Specific to Aid for Trade       Generic guidelines

**If you do have specific guidelines, please provide the details of your Aid for Trade M&E framework. How often do you review progress towards your strategy objectives? Who do you report to?**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

**Q4.2 Do you regularly monitor the potential trade impact of your aid projects / programmes?**

Yes  No  Not sure/Not applicable

**If yes, please describe how.**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

Monitoring takes place via programme evaluations, joint reviews, reporting procedures, field visits, among others.

**Q4.3 Do you have plans to improve the evaluation of your Aid for Trade programmes?**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

SECO is currently developing Standard Logframes per business lines such as "export promotion" or "competition and consumer protection policy". With the introduction of Standard Logframes as part of its result-based management, SECO intends to fulfill two purposes: to enhance i) the quality of design of projects and the communication with partners and ii) the accountability, *i.e.* reporting of achievements at the level of a Business Line. At the time, it is a challenge in terms of possible solutions for aggregating the data to allow meaningful statements in the future. The procedures for collection and reporting data will be developed and approved by the management in the course of 2009.

**Q4.4 Have you carried out or do you plan to carry out an impact assessment of your Aid for Trade programmes?**

Yes: *please indicate when:*  No  Not sure/Not applicable

**Q4.5 Do you involve partner country stakeholders in developing measurable objectives/indicators to assess the quality of your Aid for Trade programmes?**

Yes  No  Not sure/Not applicable

**If yes, please describe the indicators used.**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

For the final evaluation of the trade cooperation programme with Peru, for example, the method of the peer review process has been selected. Prior to the peer review workshop with national stakeholders (government, private sectors, etc.), donors and external experts, the local stakeholders of each programme component prepared an auto-evaluation of their corresponding project. Normally, the stakeholders organized a workshop to gather factual information and perceptions from involved actores. The final reports provided key inputs for the joint peer review workshop held in September 2008.

**Q4.6 Have you undertaken joint evaluations of your Aid for Trade with your partner country stakeholders?**

Yes  No  Not sure/Not applicable

**If yes, please describe when and the results of the evaluation.**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

Please take note of the above answer concerning the Peer Review process in Peru

**Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to monitoring, evaluation and mutual accountability.**

An Independent Committee on Evaluation has been created in SECO. This Committee will be responsible to provide advices and guidance on the program, results and follow-up of Independent Evaluations that SECO Evaluation function will conduct (it is not responsible for the external evaluations, which remain under the lead of the operational divisions). Among several other fields of interventions, activities under trade policy, trade efficiency, market access will be subject to an independent evaluation.

## 5 REGIONAL DIMENSION

### Q5.1 How important is the regional dimension in your Aid for Trade strategy?

- |  |   |  |                                      |  |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Essential element | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important element | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor element | <input type="checkbox"/> Not present | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure / Not applicable |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|

**If essential or important, please describe how your Aid for Trade strategy addresses regional challenges.**

*Please describe and exemplify.*

The regional dimension of our Aid for Trade strategy is important both from an implicit and explicit understanding: With regard to the former, the development of trade per se is linked to addressing regional challenges. Only by addressing the constraints of cross-border trade of goods and services - whether through a national or regional programme - the common regional challenges of economic integration become evident and (national) actores aware of the need to think beyond national frontiers. Regarding the explicit (i.e. operational) understanding, there is indeed a tendency to develop regional AfT programmes. For instance, there is an important regional programme implemented by UNCTAD and financed by SECO in the area of competition and consumer protection policy. In light of the regional context in Latin America, the overall objective of the COMPAL project is to foster exchange of experiences and cooperating among COMPAL beneficiary countries thereby contributing to greater coherence in the formulation and application of rules and procedures, to the adoption of a common competition legislation through the regional groupings and to improved regional market organization and knowledge of market conditions.

### Q5.2 Which of the following factors are important for determining whether or not to support particular regions or regional programmes? Please list in the order of importance.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Relevance to ongoing regional trade agreements / negotiations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional proximity / support to neighbouring regional economic integration processes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural, linguistic or historical ties with the region
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Existence of a viable counterpart at regional level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for assistance from a regional body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Availability of a clearly defined regional development strategy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geographical concentration of donor activities

Other, please describe

**Q5.3 By how much has the volume of your regional Aid for Trade increased since 2005?**

Declined     
  By less than 5%     
  By 5 to 15%     
  By 15 to 30%     
  More than 30%

**Q5.4 In which assistance categories are you particularly active at regional level?**

	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Not sure / Not applicable
Training (trade negotiations/WTO rules)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade facilitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of cross-border infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity building of regional organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other, please describe and exemplify

**Q5.5 What are the most important challenges in implementing regional Aid for Trade?**

Please list in the order of importance.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lack of (or weak) articulated demands for regional Aid for Trade
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lack of coherence between national and regional priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lack of credible lending authorities at regional level
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lack of effective coordination at regional level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficulties of monitoring and evaluating results at regional level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of credible mutual accountability mechanisms at regional level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please describe and exemplify

**Q5.6 Has the demand for regional Aid for Trade increased since 2005?**

Significantly increased     
  Increased     
  Little / no change     
  Declined     
  Not sure / Not applicable

**If yes, in which regions and for which activities has it increased the most?**

Please describe and exemplify.

**Please feel free to provide any other relevant information in relation to regional Aid for Trade.**