



ILEAP | INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS AND
ECONOMISTS AGAINST POVERTY

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INTERNATIONAUX CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

***Trade Negotiations and Development for ECOWAS: EPAs and the WTO
17-18 October 2005***

Convened by ILEAP & ECOWAS

Marima Benin Hotel (former Sheraton), Cotonou, Benin

~ Detailed Agenda¹ ~

Monday, 17 October

8:30 - 9:00

Welcome and Opening Session
ILEAP & ECOWAS

9:00 - 10:00

Session I (Plenary): Introduction to Workshop & Organization of Work

This session will provide the strategic direction of the Workshop and outline how the sessions will be undertaken.

Chair: TBA

Speaker: Dominique Njinkeu, Executive Director, ILEAP

Discussion

10:00 - 11:00

Cluster allocation and Coffee Break

**Following the morning session, the first day will be in three parallel clusters:
(A) Development; (B) Trade in Goods; and (C) Trade Facilitation and Services.**

¹ The programme for this Workshop has been put together with the input of the collaborating institutions.

Cluster A: Development

11:00 - 13:00

Session II (A): Special and Differential Treatment – Short and Long-term Perspectives

This session will (1) review proposals currently on the table at the WTO on S&D (in agriculture, NAMA, services, trade facilitation) and proposals under rules; and (2) consider some of the longer-term approaches to bringing S&D more fully into the multilateral trading system. Presentations will provide an update of work in the Committee on Trade and Development, with focus on proposals of interest to African countries. The session will also discuss competing proposals on systemic issues of interest to low income countries.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: Bernard Hoekman, World Bank – S&D and Aid for Trade - confirmed

The first presentation will survey research results on development highlight concrete proposals that the meeting could consider.

Speaker 2: Iba Mar Oulare, Conseiller Tehnique, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances, Senegal - confirmed

The second presentation will complement the first by providing a negotiator's perspective on the same issues.

Discussion

Although the discussion could touch on selected areas in specific negotiations (e.g. agriculture, NAMA, etc.), the focus should be on development as a cross-cutting issue. In addition, the discussion should focus on specific proposals for capacity building that enables effective ability to (i) negotiate, (ii) produce, and (iii) trade.

The discussion will in particular cover the following:

1. In the S&D debate, what are the short and long term objectives and how can these be achieved?
2. The relevance/adequacy of using the Integrated Framework for providing trade capacity building to countries in the region, and what are the desired features of a possible redefined IF.
3. The relative merit of a dedicated trust fund for trade capacity building and how such a fund is to be fuelled and managed. Also how such a fund relates to existing mechanisms that are relevant for countries in the region.

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 15:30

Session II (A): Special and Differential Treatment – Short and Long-term Perspectives (continued)

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 - 18:00

Session III (A): Regional Priorities on Aid for Trade

This session will provide an overview of production and trade capacity building in the ongoing aid for trade agenda. The session will also review of core supply-side problems and assessment of funding opportunities and priorities. In all the session will aim to come forward with regional priorities on how to build capacity to (i) negotiate; (ii) produce; and (iii) trade.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: Ademola Oyejide, University of Ibadan - confirmed

The first presentation will discuss a framework for ensuring that participation in EPA and WTO negotiations responds to Africa's development objectives. The presentation will look at the extent to which the aid for trade agenda as currently shaped can address the capacity to (i) negotiate, (ii) produce, and (iii) trade. It will in particular draw lessons and attempt to draw out the relevance of the analysis to a number of countries in the region both in national and regional development aspirations.

Speaker 2: Kathleen van Hove, ECDPM - confirmed

The second presentation will help the meeting understand EU practices and procedures in providing trade-related development support in order to better prepare them for negotiating the development financing package of the EPA.

Discussion

The discussion, building on that of the previous session, will focus primarily on specific proposals for countries in the region in the area of aid for trade.

Cluster B: Trade in Goods

11:00 - 13:00

Session II (B): Agriculture

This session will, from the regional perspective, look closely at agriculture negotiations at the WTO and EPAs, addressing in particular ‘offensive’ market access interests (i.e. Northern subsidy reform, tariff reduction formula) and ‘defensive’ strategies (i.e. options around preference erosion, effects of CAP reform, S&D, SPs, SSM) for countries in the region. Where possible, it will address specific sectors of importance to the region, such as bananas, rice, cotton, coffee, cocoa and sugar. This will also include the question of how regional market access commitments are being coordinated for EPAs and the WTO.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: Will Martin: Simulation of July Package, World Bank - confirmed

The first presentation will provide overall simulation of the July package and spell out the main conclusion, with specific reference to Africa.

Speaker 2: Olawale Ogunkola, Department of Economics, University of Ibadan - confirmed

The second presentation will build on the first but focus ECOWAS specific situation. This presentation should also establish an interface between the WTO and the EPA.

Speaker 3: Ambroise Balima, Mission of Burkina Faso to the WTO - confirmed

The third presentation will focus on specific situations of countries on primary products and the cotton initiative. Particular attention will be given to the political economy of sectoral initiatives in the WTO.

Discussion

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 15:30

Session II (B): Agriculture (continued)

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 - 18:00

Session III (B): Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA)

This session will look closely at industrial products negotiations at the WTO and EPAs, addressing ‘offensive’ market access interests (i.e. tariff reduction formula, sectoral initiatives, NTBs) and ‘defensive’ strategies (i.e. S&D, less-than-full reciprocity, LDC exemption, etc.) for countries in the region. It will look in particular at important industrial product areas that could be either exempted from liberalization or phased in over a longer timeframe. This will also include the question of how regional market access commitments are being coordinated for EPAs and the WTO.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: Olumuyiwa Alaba / Dominique Njinkeu - confirmed

The presentation will focus on research results on West African industrial products and the primary interest of West African countries in the NAMA negotiation. Particular attention will be paid to NTBs.

Discussion

Cluster C: Trade Facilitation & Trade in Services

11:00 - 13:00

Session II (C): Trade Facilitation

This session will assess the implementation challenges of TF proposals on the table at the WTO and those that could arise in the course of the EPA negotiations. This will include a presentation of state of play as well as country case studies.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: Ibrahima Diagne, Administrateur Général du Groupement GAINDE 2000 (Informatique Douanière), Senegal - confirmed

Speaker 2: Gunnela Becker, Becker Consulting AB - confirmed

Discussion

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 15:30

Session II (C): Trade Facilitation (continued)

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 - 18:00

Session III (C): Trade in Services

This session will cover the state of play of services negotiations at the WTO and EPAs. It will look at offensive and defensive interests of the region, review successes and / or failures of services liberalization initiatives, and recap progress in the region in coming forward with requests and offers. Like the other market access sessions it will also include the question of how regional market access commitments are being coordinated for EPAs and the WTO.

Chair: TBA

Presentation

Speaker 1: Abdoulaye Ndiaye, CEO Agir Promouvoir, Senegal - confirmed

Discussion

Plenary

Tuesday, 18 October

8:30 - 10:00

Session IV: Other Elements of the Doha and EPA Work Programmes

This session will review progress to date on other aspects of the negotiations at the WTO and EPAs. Includes issues such as TRIPS; implementation issues; trade, debt, and finance; and transfer of technology.

Chair: TBA

Presentation

Speaker 1: TBA

Discussion

10:00 - 10:30

Coffee break

10:30 - 12:30

Panel with development partners

This session will provide an opportunity for key funders to present ongoing and planned activities for trade capacity building for West Africa.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: USAID - TBC

Speaker 2: World Bank/WTO/ITC (IF/JITAP, etc.)/Dutch/DFID - TBC

Discussion

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Session VI: Plenary - Reporting back

Reports by Chairs of each cluster grouping

Chair: TBA

Discussion

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 - 17:00

Session VI: Plenary roundtable on negotiation strategies

This session will focus on what strategies would be appropriate to adopt to best enable development-centric outcomes from the WTO and EPA trade negotiations.

Chair: TBA

Discussion

17:00 - 17:30

Closing

ILEAP & ECOWAS