



ILEAP | INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS AND
ECONOMISTS AGAINST POVERTY



Trade Negotiations and Development for East Africa: EPAs and the WTO
28-29 October 2005

Convened by ILEAP, EAC and AERC

Ngurdoto Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania

~ Detailed Agenda ~

Friday, 28 October

8:30 - 9:00

Welcome and Opening Session

ILEAP, EAC and AERC

9:00 - 11:00

Session I (Plenary): State of Play – Doha and EPAs

This session will review the state of play in the Doha and EPA trade negotiations with particular focus on threats and opportunities facing countries in the region.

Chair: TBA

Presentations

Speaker 1: Nelson Ndirangu, Mission of Kenya to the WTO - confirmed

The presentation will provide a broad-brush update on the WTO negotiations in the leadup to Hong Kong, with particular attention to issues of interest to Africa.

Speaker 2: Uledi Mussa, Tanzania Ministry of Industry and Trade - confirmed

This presentation will address the various negotiating streams underway in the EPA talks from the region's perspective, focusing on development-related aspects.

Discussion

The discussion will focus in particular on general concerns that participants have. The Chair will conclude with those concerns that need to be thoroughly considered in the three parallel clusters.

11:00 - 11:30

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.**

Cluster A: Development

11:30 - 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 - confirmed

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

Speaker 2: Charge d'Affaires, Ugandan Mission to the WTO - TBC

This 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: Amanda Sunassee: Tanzanian perspective on Aid for Trade - confirmed

The first presentation will focus on how to make aid for trade more effective, particularly given expected increases in donor assistance in this area. The presentation will look at the extent to which the aid for trade agenda as currently shaped can address the capacity of Tanzania 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 countries in the region both in national and regional development aspirations.

Speaker 2: Francesco Rampa, ECDPM: Review of EU practices and procedures on development financing - confirmed

The second presentation will help the meeting understand EU practices and procedures in trade-related development support so as 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

11:30 - 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: Dr. Weggoro, EAC Secretariat

Presentations:

Speaker 1: Marcelo Olarreaga, World Bank: Simulation of July package - confirmed

The first presentation will survey the July package taking into account current state of play, then present simulations helping to understand those areas that should be of interest to countries in the region both on the offensive and defensive sides.

Speaker 2: Alex Werth: WTO agriculture negotiations and CAP reform - confirmed

The second presentation will review CAP reform and its possible link with the European position at the WTO. In particular, the presentation will focus on products covered in the CAP reform that are critical to countries in the region. Reference should be made to specific actions that need to be considered from the African side.

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.

Presentation

Speaker 1: Mr. Bede Lyimo, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Tanzania - confirmed

Discussion

The discussion will in particular need to take into account the regional trade and industrialization programme and consider the extent to which the WTO and EPAs can be use to promote the objectives of national governments and the region. Particular attention will be paid to required action with respect to NTBs and rules of origin.

Cluster C: Trade Facilitation & Trade in Services

14:00 - 16:30

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: Kenneth Bagamuhunda, Director of Customs at the EAC

Presentations:

Speaker 1: Dr. Haji Semboja, University of Dar es Salaam: Trade facilitation priorities: A Tanzanian perspective - confirmed

Speaker 2: Clare Akamanzi, Mission of Rwanda to the UN/WTO: Trade facilitation priorities: A Rwandan perspective - confirmed

Speaker 3: Lynette Gitonga, ILEAP Fellow: Trade facilitation priorities: A Kenyan perspective - confirmed

Discussion

The discussion will focus primarily on the readiness of countries of the region to endorse proposals on the table at the WTO, as well as the relative merit of handling these instead as part of the EPA or the regional integration scheme. From the national/regional perspective, the discussion will seek to identify an overall approach to trade facilitation in the negotiation and what actions would be required to enhance the ability to negotiate trade facilitation in the WTO and EPAs, and prioritize infrastructural/institutional reform that would make the commitment meaningful from a developmental perspective.

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

Presentations:

Speaker 1: Eastern Africa interest in EPA and GATS negotiations - Speaker from the region to be determined

The first presentation will survey national (effective and likely) requests and offers in both the WTO and EPA for countries in the region, highlight commonalities and dwell on what could be done to ensure that commitments in services negotiations lead to welfare enhancement. This will entail aspects of further institutional reform, and human resource and infrastructural development.

Speaker 2: Baathodi Molatlhegi, Molatlhegi & Associates, Regulatory and International Trade Law Consultants, Gaborone, Botswana: Lessons of regional approach to telecommunications services in SADC - confirmed

The second presentation will make a case for regulatory capacity building, with the specific case of telecommunications.

Discussion

The discussion will focus on the identification of a plan of action for effective participation in the request and offer exercise. In particular what are the respective roles of trade and sector ministries, professional associations, and civil society at large. It will further look at the level of literacy on the institutional and legal issues that would make participation in services negotiations beneficial. This discussion should produce a concrete and prioritized list of actions that countries in the region individually or collectively should undertake.

Plenary

Saturday, 29 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: Regional trade representative from Uganda - TBA

Discussion

10:00 - 10:30

Coffee break

10:30 - 12:30

Development partners aid for trade and capacity building for East Africa

This session will provide an opportunity for selected development partners to present ongoing and planned assistance in aid for trade.

Chair: TBA

Presentations:

Speaker 1: American trade capacity building programmes - confirmed

Speaker 2: Dutch trade capacity building programmes - confirmed

Speaker 3: UK trade capacity building programmes - TBC

Speaker 4: The IF experience, presented by World Bank representative - confirmed

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, EAC and AERC