



## AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

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Global Aid for Trade Review 2009

Press Release

6 July 2009  
Tunis, Tunisia

## WTO launches second global review of Aid for Trade

The WTO, its members and key international aid and development organizations will conduct the Second Global Review of Aid for Trade – aimed at expanding the trade capacity of developing countries - on 6-7 July 2009 in Geneva.

The Second Global Review will evaluate progress made since the First Review, held in November 2007, and scrutinize how Aid for Trade is being put into operation in the field. Progress in securing additional, predictable financing will be discussed and views exchanged on how aid flows can be maintained against the backdrop of the global recession.

The four key objectives of this Second Global Review are:

- **Moving from commitment to implementation:** The meeting will assess how is Aid for Trade making good on its promise as the agenda moves from commitment of funds (increase of 10% annually since 2005 and funding pledges today standing at more than \$25 billion annually; non-concessional loans add an additional \$27 billion) to implementation in concrete project at multilateral, regional and national level.
- **Integrating trade in national and regional development strategies:** The meeting will analyze how can trade be better integrated into core national and regional development strategies, what are the obstacles and how this process can be encouraged?
- **Sustaining aid flows during the global economic downturn:** This Review will study the impact that the global economic downturn is having on Aid for Trade flows, how can donors be persuaded to engage long term through additional and predictable financing, and what role emerging South-South donors can play in Aid for Trade.
- **Assessing the effectiveness of Aid for Trade:** The Geneva gathering will try to find what conclusions are emerging on the results and effectiveness of Aid for Trade so far. The second joint OECD/WTO monitoring report "Aid for Trade at a Glance", to be published coinciding with the Second Global Review, highlights that the Aid for Trade initiative has already made remarkable progress.
- **The African Development Bank** recognizes the importance of trade and fully supports the Aid for Trade agenda, and has been taking actions to address the supply-side constraints through the financing of infra-

structure, a key component of the Aid-for-Trade program. The Bank has also been financing a number of development corridors, including the North-South Corridor and the Mombasa-Ethiopia Corridor. In addition, the bank has been building into its infrastructure development trade facilitation programs, which helps to minimize cross-border transactions costs and enhance the benefits of regional infrastructure. In order to mitigate the impact of the financial crisis, the Bank has adopted a USD 1 billion multi phase initiative to finance trade. The Bank will continue to collaborate with WTO and other Development Partners to assess the effectiveness of support provided under the Aid for Trade agenda and take necessary complementary measures.