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# **Monitoring Aid for Trade**

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> CAREC TPCC meeting Bishkek, 2<sup>ND</sup> April 2008



## The Aid for Trade Initiative

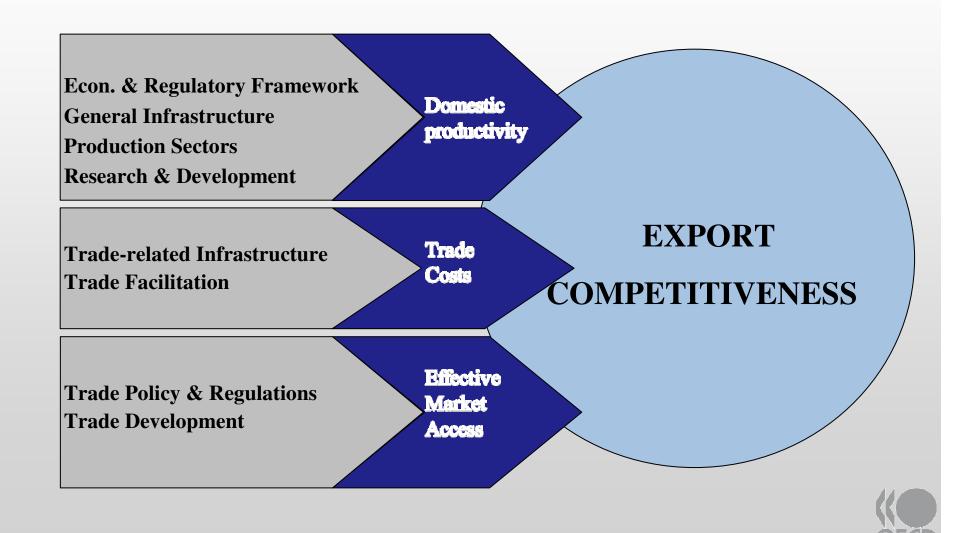
## NO NEW GLOBAL FUND

- Aid for Trade is part of normal ODA
- No new eligibility criteria (all ODA recipients are eligible), no new funding windows, no new administrative procedures
- No guarantees of additional flows

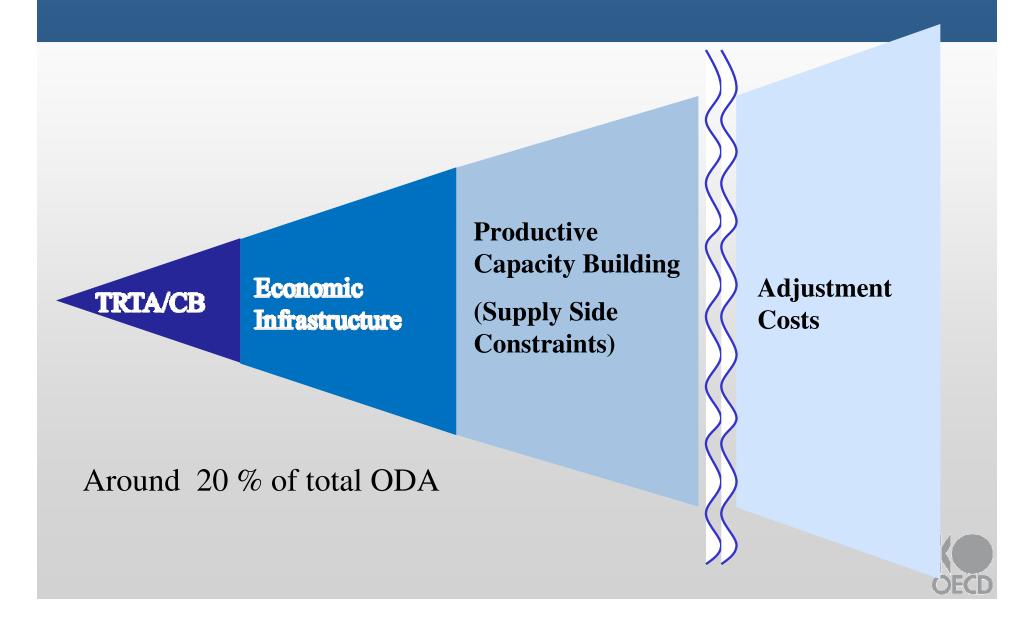
The initiative is about raising **awareness**, **effectiveness** and hopefully **resources**.



# Aid to help building trade capacity ....



# Scope of the Aid for Trade Agenda



## WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade

## Driving concerns

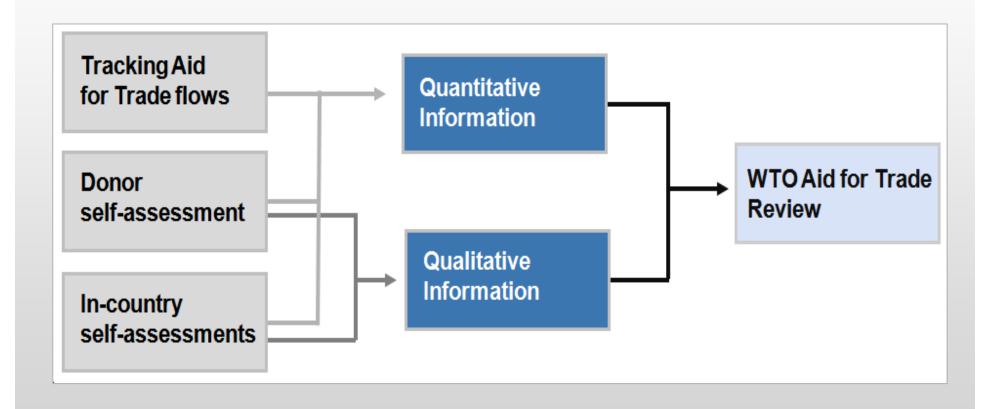
- Additional, predictable, sustainable financing
- Better allocation of aid for trade
- More effective aid, through better application of the Paris Declaration aid effectiveness principles
- No new mechanisms

## Some operational recommendations

- Explore expanding Integrated Framework for IDA only countries
- Strengthen regional demand and supply
- Monitor and evaluate aid for trade flows and effectiveness



# **Monitoring Architecture**





## **Measuring Global Aid for Trade Flows**

#### **The OECD Creditor Reporting System**

#### An existing database of ODA commitments and disbursements

- comparable data across time and countries
- global trends, incl. additionality

#### Best proxies for AfT definition, but imperfect match:

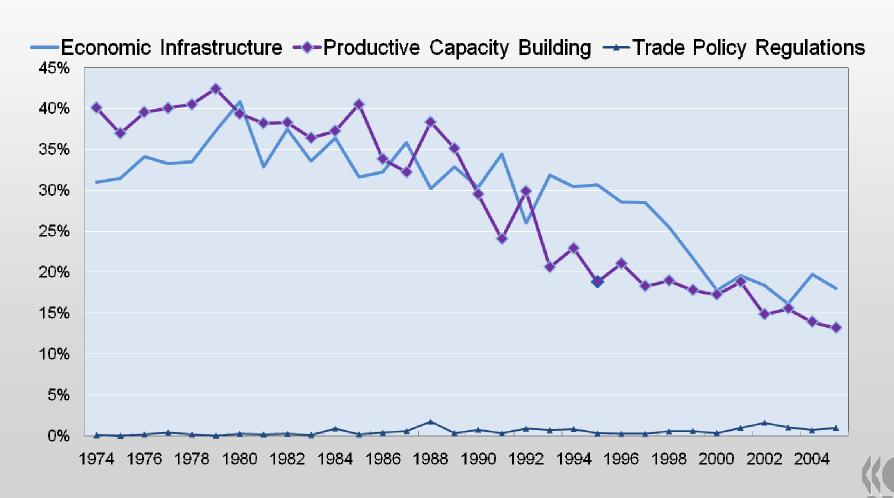
- very broad categories overestimation
- not all AfT categories covered underestimation

True AfT numbers can only emerge from donors and partner countries



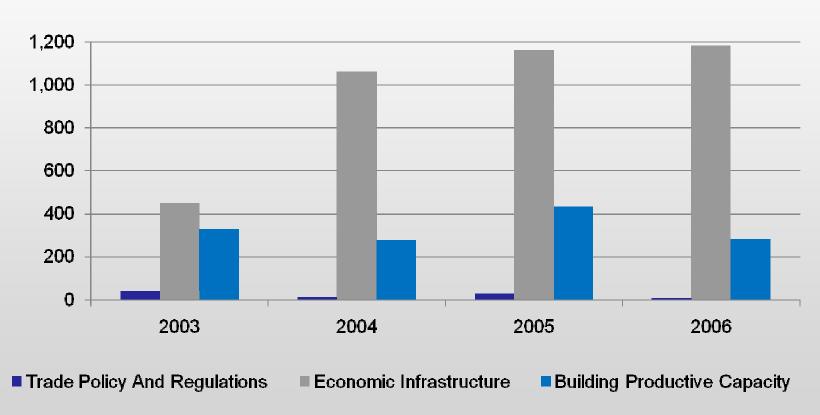
## **Long Term Trends in 'Aid for Trade' Categories**

#### Share of sector allocable ODA in commitments



# An overview of 'Aid for Trade' in CAREC (without China)

ODA Commitments- Average 2002-2006 - US\$ Millions, 2005 constant prices

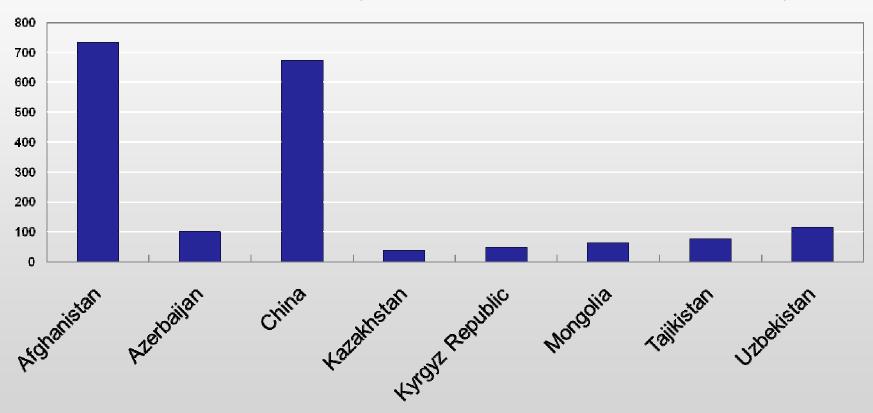


Source: OECD/DAC/CRS



# **'Aid for Trade' in CAREC Member Countries**

ODA Commitments – Average 2002-2006 - US\$ Millions, 2005 constant prices



Source: OECD/DAC/CRS

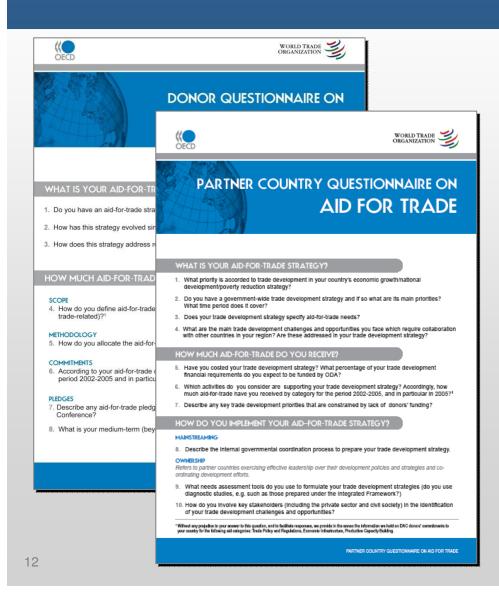


## **Qualitative AfT Information**

- Encourage accountability and reflection:
  - governmental reflection process both in donor and partner countries on aid for trade and trade development strategies
  - dialogue between donor/partner and with stakeholders.
- Eliciting comparative data on the quality of aid delivery and in the future, the outcomes and impact of aid.
- Refine the measurement of aid for trade flows and create vertical comparability across time



# Donor and partner questionnaires



#### Main themes:

- What is your aid for trade strategy?
- How much aid-for-trade do you provide/receive?
- How do you implement your aid-for-trade strategy?
- Do you participate in mutual accountability arrangements?



# Results at Year One are Encouraging

- Aid for Trade volumes are rising, but their share in sector aid continues to decline.
- Aid for Trade is being prioritised in donor and partner strategies.
- Awareness of regional constraints is high, but challenges remain how to address them.
- Many partner countries have identified key constraints and costed their strategies, but are uncertain about which financing needs will met by ODA.
- All agree with Paris Declaration, but implementing aid effectiveness principles remains challenging, particularly in terms of management for results and mutual accountability.



# **Priority Areas for Improvement**

## 1. Much stronger engagement of partner countries

- Better communication and planning
- In-depth consultation
- Making sure partner countries benefit directly from the process of answering the questionnaire.

## 2. Stronger spotlight effect

- Best practice information
- More comparable data across donors and partner countries
- Better integrate regional dimension

# 3. Address evaluation issues and impact on trade performance



## **Engaging partner countries**

#### **Benefits of participation**

- Increased visibility towards donors: opportunity to voice needs, concerns and results obtained to date
- Tool to improve national planning on trade development programmes
- More effective aid for trade, and potentially additional resources

## **Costs of participation**

- Articulating some kind of national strategy and developing a comprehensive picture of all aid for trade programmes
- Filling a questionnaire not always negligible
- Keeping up with Geneva action plans not always easy for observers.



## Issues for discussion

#### > Raising awareness

How can we make sure that the relevant people in governments are aware of the benefits and costs of participation? Is this type of event useful? Are there other avenues?

### > Increasing relevance

What structure of the questionnaire would increase the benefits from the questionnaire? Are the four headings right? Do they enable countries to signal what's working in the aid-for-trade assistance and what's not.

How can the questionnaire be most useful for national planning?

## > Reducing the administrative burden

Who should receive the questionnaire and which format is best? Is inter-ministerial cooperation too costly?

