



Page 5: ABOUT YOU

Q1

EUROPEAN UNION

Respondent (Donor country or headquarters location in the case of Organizations)

Q2

About you

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Page 7: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES (YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES)

Q3

Does your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan include trade priorities (i.e., Aid-for-Trade priorities)?

Yes,

Additional information on the trade (or Aid-for-Trade priorities) included in your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan (or other trade-related policy document):

The EU Aid for Trade priorities are put down in the 2017 EU Joint (with Member States) AfT Strategy comprised in the documents: Commission Communication COM (2017) 667 of 13 November 2017: 'Achieving Prosperity through Trade and Investment. Updating the 2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade' and Council Conclusions 15573/17 of 11 December 2017: 'Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Prosperity through Trade and Investment. Updating the 2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade'. These comprise the Joint EU and Member States Updated 2017 Aid for Trade Strategy. The principles of the 2017 AfT Strategy include: 1.Reducing fragmentation, integrating development tools, increasing leverage of AfT through better informed and coordinated delivery; 2. Scaling up impact – making the most of instruments across EU external policies, in particular: the External Investment Plan, trade agreements (EPAs, FTAs, DCFTAs, etc.), trade schemes (GSP, EBA); 3.Stronger focus on social and environmental sustainability and inclusive economic growth; 4.Better, differentiated approach to countries, with increased focus on Least Developed countries (LDCs); 5.Improved monitoring and reporting The AfT priorities of the EU are as well embedded in the EU Global Europe Instrument (the EU financial instrument defining the priorities of our cooperation for the period 2021-2027). Some extracts of the regulation where AfT related issues are specifically mentioned: (...)” (p)Developing and strengthening markets and sectors in a way that would bolster inclusive, sustainable and climate- resilient growth and fair trade, as well as reduce the socio-economic marginalisation of vulnerable groups; (q)Supporting the regional integration agenda and optimal trade policies in support of inclusive and sustainable development, strengthening countries’ capacity to trade, and supporting the consolidation and implementation of trade agreements between the Union and its partners, including holistic and asymmetrical agreements with developing country partners, in line with human rights standards; promoting and strengthening multilateralism, sustainable economic cooperation, as well as measures aimed at promoting and strengthening the rules of the World Trade Organization; (...)” ... Finally, in the Annex to the Regulation guiding operations around global challenges, the following can be mentioned. The Commission has developed specific programmes to address national, regional, and global issues. These Multi-Indicative Programmes (MIPs) include systematically sustainable economic growth as a priority, where aid for trade related issues is normally included. As an example, at global level, the Commission is committed to: “ (...)”

(d) Supporting the implementation of the Union trade policy and trade agreements, in line with sustainable development; strengthening partner countries' capacities to trade and improving access to partner country markets and boosting fair trade, responsible and accountable investment and business opportunities for companies from the Union while eliminating barriers to market access and investment, as well as aiming at easing access to climate-friendly technologies, while ensuring as much as possible added value sharing and human rights due diligence in supply chains, taking into account policy coherence for development; (e) Promoting an effective policy mix supportive of economic diversification, value addition, and regional integration and sustainable green and blue economy; (f) Fostering access to digital technologies, including promoting access to finance and financial inclusion, as well as e-commerce; (...)"

Page 8: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q4

If yes, please highlight what these Aid-for-Trade priorities are: Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top priority areas among the ones listed below (1 being the most important).

Building productive capacity	4
Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy	2
Trade facilitation	5
Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation	3
Other (please specify)	1

Additional information and weblink(s) to the relevant strategy(ies), polic(ies) or plan(s) in which your Aid-for-Trade priorities are included.

Holistic view on Aid for Trade to support the SDGs and achieve sustainable prosperity through increased trade and investment. Sustainability here entails all three dimensions. For access to the 2017 AfT 2017 Strategy: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM%3A2017%3A667%3AFIN>

Page 9: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q5

Have your Aid-for-Trade priorities changed since 2019?

Unsure,

Additional information: please specify which of the priorities you selected are new and provide further information. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Although the Covid-19 pandemic has led to emerging challenges which EU AfT has needed to address, and while short-term priorities may have changed depending on the context, the overarching strategy framework has not changed. The "Aid for Trade" Strategy was updated in 2017 the last time and builds on 10 years of EU Aid for Trade assistance and aims to strengthen and modernise EU support to partner countries. The latest Communication adopted sets out ways the Commission can improve and better target its aid for trade. It puts a strong focus on Least Developed Countries, and countries in situations of fragility.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_17_4488 The EU publishes every year a progress report on AFT activities. The latest report can be found below.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/aid-for-trade-report-2021_en Latest AfT brochure 2021:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9fc00833-3864-11ec-8daf-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-239039078> As from 2021-27, the Multiannual Financing Framework has led to the Global Europe Regulation explained earlier, and its "European Fund for Sustainable Development +" (EFSD+). This has also entailed a more global reach, beyond the EU Neighbourhood and Africa.

Page 10: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q6

If yes, please identify the top drivers of change in your Aid-for-Trade priorities from the list below: (Please select no more than 5 options from the areas listed below).

Respondent skipped this question

Page 11: SECTION 1 : AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q7

Has Aid for Trade become a more or less important part of your development policy since 2019?

More,

Additional information on the reasons why Aid for Trade may have become more, less, or remained equally important than in the past.:

There is no major change in the AFT policy within the EU. However, the SDG funding gap in developing countries is projected to have increased from €2.2. trillion pre-COVID to €3.7 trillion a year for the foreseeable future, a 70% increase (based on OECD report:

<https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/global-outlook-on-financing-for-sustainable-development.htm>).

EU AfT constitutes an important part of supporting partner countries' Covid-19 pandemic.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/trade_en

Q8

Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with development partners?

Yes,

Additional information on how changes in your Aid-for-Trade priorities may have been reflected in your dialogue with development partners.:

EU Delegations in the field maintain a regular policy dialogue with the partner country to align on their priorities while ensuring ownership. Although AfT has always been one of the main priorities of the EU in the context of our relations with partner countries, the Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced the policy dialogue on AfT . Following the break of the pandemic in March 2020, our Delegations in the field and EU HQs reacted quickly to ensure AfT actions were reorientated to address the immediate challenges of the pandemic. Over the last months, this dialogue is evolving to encompass also the AfT actions aiming at ensuring an inclusive and sustainable recovery and to limit the consequences of the pandemic. Besides, in the framework of our Annual AFT progress report, the EU delegations consult all stakeholders (EU MS, government, implementing partners, etc.). The findings of these consultations are reflected in our annual AFT progress report. In addition, the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) debates development issues and how the European Union (EU) can best respond to them. The main objective of the Forum is to improve the effectiveness of EU development cooperation including AFT <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/policy-forum-development>

Q9

Do you have a specific development or aid strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes,

Additional information on your development or aid strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

The EU is mobilising all resources available to help member states coordinate their national responses, and this includes providing objective information about the spread of the virus, the effective efforts to contain it and measures taken to repair the economic and social damage brought by the pandemic. <https://european-union.europa.eu/priorities-and-actions/common-eu-response> The European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund for Sustainable Development have approved more than EUR 56 billion of targeted support for businesses most impacted by the crisis, public health and delivery of vaccines. This includes EUR 6.5 billion of new financing to strengthen health and economic resilience outside the European Union, including EUR 600 million for the COVAX initiative that has delivered life-saving vaccines to over 100 countries worldwide. The EIB and EU member states have approved EUR 12 billion of new support for business financing to be deployed under the European Guarantee Fund.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/eur-56-billion-eib-response-to-covid-19-crisis-climate-action-and-stronger-development-focus-welcomed-by-eu-finance-ministers>
Finally, the EU acting together with its Member States and European Financial Institutions, has provided over EUR 46 billion worth of global response to Covid-19 pandemic: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/FS_21_4897

Q10

If yes, please indicate whether your strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic addresses any of the following areas: (You may tick more than one box).

Agricultural sector, food production and supply chain support
,
Building productive capacity,
Digital connectivity and transformation,
E-commerce,
Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy
,
Job creation,
Industrial sector support,
MSME support,
Poverty reduction objectives,
Preparedness, recovery and resilience,
Services sector support (e.g., tourism),
Trade in health products (PPE, vaccines, etc.),
Trade facilitation,
Trade finance,
Trade policy modernization and upgrading,
Women's economic empowerment and gender equality
,
Youth economic empowerment

Page 13: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q11

Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to your Aid-for-Trade activities and action.

The main documents with weblinks are listed in the response to question 5. The EU Aid for Trade Progress Report 2021 illustrates in a quantitative and qualitative manner EU AfT operations.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/eu-aid-for-trade-progress-report-2021_en.pdf

Related, the DG INTPA webpage for AfT contains some illustrative information, and will be soon be complemented by an interactive mapping of AfT operations.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/trade_en

Page 15: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q12

Is the environmental dimension of sustainable development reflected in your development or aid policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your development or aid policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

The environmental dimension is reflected in the two overarching development policy documents. First, the "European Consensus on Development: Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future" from 2017 confirms that The EU and its Member States are committed to a life of dignity for all that reconciles economic prosperity and efficiency, peaceful societies, social inclusion and environmental responsibility. "Planet" is one of five prioritized themes, which details how the EU will work to protect the environment, manage natural resources and tackle climate change. In addition to dedicated actions, environmental considerations is expected to be integrated across all sectors of development cooperation.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf Second, the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - 'Global Europe' – adopted in 2021, covers the EU cooperation with all third countries, except for the pre-accession beneficiaries and the overseas countries and territories from the geographic programmes, from 2021 to 2027. Environment and climate change is one of ten goals. The Instrument should contribute to mainstream climate action in the Union policies and includes spending targets to support climate and biodiversity objectives. Article 25.5 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation establishes a mandatory environmental screening, including for climate change and biodiversity impacts, at the level of actions in accordance with the applicable legislative acts of the Union. The NDICI-Global Europe Regulation also establishes that, when relevant, strategic environmental assessments, including the impact on climate change, shall be used in the implementation of sectoral programmes. The screening is mandatory for all actions.

<https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/global-europe>

Q13

If yes, please indicate in which of your strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) sustainable development is reflected:(You may tick more than one box).

Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan,

Environmentally sustainable economy strategy (or green growth), policy or plan

,

Environmentally sustainable growth strategy, policy or plan

,

Sustainable trade strategy, policy or plan,

Strategy, policy or plan for circular economy/sustainable consumption and production patterns

,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) in which sustainable development is reflected.:

For this and subsequent questions asking about “sustainable development”, we will focus on the environmental dimension and circular economy. This is in line with our interpretation of the scope expected, considering the “Issues paper” (WT/COMTD/AFT/W/87) referenced in the introduction to Section 2. The Issues paper does not explicitly limit the scope but in substance it refers by and large to trade-environment and circular economy issues. First, references to the environment and sustainable development more broadly are integrated in the European Consensus on Development and the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation referenced in our response to Question 12. Second, the “EU Trade Policy Review: An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy”, adopted in 2021, puts significant emphasis on sustainable development and the environmental dimension. “Supporting the recovery and fundamental transformation of the EU economy in line with its green and digital objectives” and “shaping global rules for a more sustainable and fairer globalization are two of three core objectives.

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/february/tradoc_159438.pdf Third, the European Green Deal has the overarching objective of transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future. It is an integral part of this Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

[uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

[01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF) Finally, the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan is one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal, noting that the EU's transition to a circular economy will reduce pressure on natural resources and will create sustainable growth and jobs. It is also a prerequisite to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss. The new action plan announces initiatives along the

entire life cycle of products. It targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and aims to ensure that waste is prevented and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en

Page 17: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q14

Does your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan explicitly target any of the following environment-specific goals? (You may tick more than one box).

Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7),

Sustainable Production and Consumption (SDG 12),

Climate Action (SDG 13),

Life Below Water (SDG 14),

Life on Land (SDG 15),

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the environment-specific goals and approaches such as financing, sharing of know-how, technology transfer (including sharing of know-how), promotion of value chain integration targeted by your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan.:

The European Consensus on Development and the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, referenced in question 12, refer to these SDGs where relevant. In the European Commission Communication "Achieving Prosperity through Trade and Investment: Updating the 2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade" from 2017, hereafter called the EU Aid for Trade Strategy, the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are the foundation. It says that "The ambition must be to support partner countries in their efforts to make progress on the SDGs and achieve sustainable prosperity through increase trade and investment." While it does not refer to these SDGs specifically, this is a cross-cutting priority. In addition, for example, the following is one of five principles in the strategy: Stronger focus on the social and environmental dimensions of sustainability, together with inclusive economic growth. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0667&from=EN>

Q15

Does your sustainable development strategy, policy, or plan include trade objectives?

Yes,

Additional information on the trade objectives found in your Aid-for-Trade or development strategy policy, or plan that includes sustainable development. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:

The 2017 Joint EU AfT Strategy notes the importance of support to sustainable development as a main priority (please see responses to preceding questions for weblinks). The European Green Deal Communication, referenced in response to Question 13, notes the important role of trade policy and the WTO in advancing ambitious environment, climate and energy objectives. To mention some of the specific measures, it notes that the Commission will propose to make the respect of the Paris agreement an essential element for all future comprehensive trade agreements. The Commission will also continue to work on new standards for sustainable growth and use its economic weight to shape international standards that are in line with EU environmental and climate ambitions. It will work to facilitate trade in environmental goods and services, in bilateral and multilateral forums. Several other measures are mentioned. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1588580774040&uri=CELEX:52019DC0640)

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6691 ; and https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en . In addition, in the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation referenced in Question 12, Annexes formulate the following among thematic focus areas: • Promoting the phasing-out of environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies, stable and transparent energy markets and the deployment of smart grids and the use of digital technologies for sustainable energy management; • Supporting efforts to improve sustainable economic diversification, competitiveness, local value-added in supply chains and sustainable trade, private sector development with a particular focus on low-emission climate-resilient green growth, SMEs and cooperatives, taking advantage of the benefits of existing trade agreements with the Union for sustainable development; • Developing and strengthening markets and sectors in a way that would bolster inclusive, sustainable and climate- resilient growth and fair trade, as well as reduce the socio-economic marginalisation of vulnerable groups; • Supporting the regional integration agenda and optimal trade policies in support of inclusive and sustainable development, strengthening countries' capacity to trade, and supporting the consolidation and implementation of trade agreements between the Union and its partners, including holistic and asymmetrical agreements with developing country partners, in line with human rights standards; promoting and strengthening multilateralism, sustainable economic cooperation, as well as measures aimed at promoting and strengthening the

rules of the World Trade Organization; • Supporting the implementation of the Union trade policy and trade agreements, in line with sustainable development; strengthening partner countries' capacities to trade and improving access to partner country markets and boosting fair trade, responsible and accountable investment and business opportunities for companies from the Union while eliminating barriers to market access and investment, as well as aiming at easing access to climate-friendly technologies, while ensuring as much as possible added value sharing and human rights due diligence in supply chains, taking into account policy coherence for development; • Promoting an effective policy mix supportive of economic diversification, value addition, and regional integration and sustainable green and blue economy; • Fostering access to digital technologies, including promoting access to finance and financial inclusion, as well as e-commerce;

Page 18: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q16

If yes, do the trade objectives address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the environmental dimension of sustainable development is reflected in your development policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

Please find details in response to especially Questions 15 on how the various sustainable development strategies, plans and regulations refer to trade and environmental issues.

Page 19: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q17

As a donor, do you have coordination or dialogues with developing countries' national committees, ministries of trade and agencies on sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the Ministry of Trade is represented in your coordination or dialogue held with developing countries' national committee committees, ministries of trade and agencies on sustainable development.:

All EU funding is subject to dialogue in coordination with partner governments in rigorous but various ways, depending on the specific funding modality and context. Through our EU Delegation offices in the field, the EU engages bilaterally with partner countries and establish a regular policy and political dialogue on issues of common concern, with AfT being at the top of our agenda. Policy dialogue takes many different forms depending on the thematic area, the partner governments, the level of engagement or the modality of support put in place. Depending on the country, the dialogue is chaired by a Ministry designed as the official EU counterpart, normally the Ministry of Economy and or Finance, who calls the relevant line ministry (Ministry of Trade, for example) to discuss issues falling under the line Ministry mandate. In other countries, again depending on the preferences of the partner country, the dialogue is established bilaterally between the EU and the line ministries. In any case, the EU cooperation is triggered by a closed dialogue with the partner countries, where, following the Paris Declaration principles and the EU Consensus for Development, ownership and alignment with the partner country priorities is ensured. As one example, Budget support is central to our international cooperation. EU budget support aims at strengthening our partnerships with partner countries, to promote sustainable development, eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and consolidate peace and democracy. The EU is the world's top provider of budget support. It involves direct financial transfers to the national treasury of partner countries engaging in sustainable development reforms. These transfers are conditional on policy dialogue, performance assessment, and capacity building.

Q18

If yes, do these dialogues address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the committee, ministries of trade or agencies addresses the environmental dimension of sustainable development.:

The EU has mainstreamed the environmental dimension of sustainable development in all policy and political dialogues as well as in the implementation of all EU funded actions. The specific contents of dialogues carried out depend on the context. With the new NDICI-Global Europe regulation for the 2021-2027 period, the environmental dimension of sustainable development is recognised as a central element of our actions a key part of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation. This regulation, which lays out the foundation for country and regional-specific programming, as well as of global and thematic actions, ensures that these issues are monitored and followed up on as needed.

Page 21: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q19

Please identify the economic sector(s) in your developing and least-developed partner countries that would gain the most in terms of economic and export diversification as a result of the move to sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the economic sector(s) that would gain the most in terms of economic and export diversification as a result of the move to sustainable development.:

The response will be context-specific, depending on the existing structure as well as economic, political and environmental challenges and opportunities in the particular country. In certain countries, to move towards diversification within sectors, such as agriculture, will be hugely important. Similarly, greening manufacturing may be the most significant aspect of diversification from sustainable development in many places. Meanwhile, an expansion of the services sector can bring important benefits for the environment and diversification in most contexts.

Q20

Please identify the economic sectors that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development. (You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the economic sectors that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development.:

Again, the response to the question will be context-specific depending on the existing structure as well as economic, political and environmental challenges and opportunities in the particular country. Different sectors will face different challenges in different places.

Q21

In your view, what challenges constitute the main obstacles to the transition towards sustainable development in developing and least-developed partner countries?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Access to finance,

Business climate,

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Domestic political challenges (e.g., security and stability)

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Existing transport infrastructure,

Gender inequality,

High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector

,

High trade costs,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Lack of human resource capability,

Lack of political will,

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Social pressures (poverty, population growth),

Other (please specify),

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

Lack of technology transfer (including know-how),

Additional information on the challenges most likely to constitute obstacles towards sustainable trade, sustainable consumption and production patterns (i.e., circular economy). (Please provide examples as applicable).:

Again, the response to the question will be context-specific depending on the existing structure as well as economic, political and environmental challenges and opportunities in the particular country. When prioritising between interventions, and before the design and roll-out of them, a thorough analysis of the main local constraints is carried out. Nevertheless, domestic political challenges and social pressures (e.g. the need for job creation) might be two commonly-perceived challenges that constrain the possibility in most other areas. For instance, to prioritise "green" access to finance as opposed to access to

green access to finance as opposed to access to finance more generally, or to ensure renewable energy access for firms as opposed to cheaper but emissions-intensive fossil fuel access needed for firms' competitiveness.

Q22

Please highlight the main challenges that Aid for Trade should address to support a transition to sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Access to finance,**
- Business climate,**
- Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services**
- ,
- Developing countries' political challenges (e.g., security and stability)**
- ,
- Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,**
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,**
- Existing transport infrastructure,**
- Gender inequality,**
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**
- ,
- High trade costs,**
- Lack of data to support decision-making,**
- Lack of human resource capability,**
- Lack of political will,**
- Limited agricultural processing capacity,**
- Limited economic and export diversification,**
- Low productive capacity in manufacturing,**
- Low productivity of agricultural sector,**
- Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,**
- Social pressures (poverty, population growth),**
- Other (please specify),**
- Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment**
- ,
- Lack of technology transfer (including sharing of know-how)**
- ,

Additional information on the main challenges that Aid for Trade should address to support a transition to sustainable development. (Please provide examples as applicable).:

Again, the response to the question will be context-specific depending on the existing structure as well as economic, political and environmental challenges and opportunities in the particular country. When prioritising between interventions, and before the design and roll-out of them, a thorough analysis of the main local constraints is carried out. They are also very intertwined and at different scales. For instance, business climate is a large area which, if tackled correctly, can help reduce trade costs, improve access to finance, reduce the

costs, improve access to finance, reduce the concentration of economic activity in the informal sector, etc. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is also an area which touches on numerous of the other ones, such as gender inequality, social pressures, etc.

Page 22: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q23

Do your Aid-for-Trade or development strategies include a circular economy strategy, policy, plan or objectives?

Yes,

Additional information on your circular economy strategy, policy, plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: The EU Aid for Trade Strategy notes that Climate finance and the green and circular economy offer developing countries leapfrogging opportunities in trade, growth and employment and will enhance societal and ecological resilience. EU AfT is used to help developing countries' transition to low carbon and climate change resilient economies. The circular economy transition generates new innovation and economic opportunities that developing countries should further seize. The EU circular economy action plan, available through the link below, notes the importance of circular economy aspects in Free Trade Agreements, reviewing rules on waste shipments, and support measures that are aimed at combating environmental crime related to illegal exports, trafficking, shipment of waste and improve sustainable management of waste in third countries. Please find more details in response to Question 25.
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en Please see responses to Questions 12 and 13 for other relevant web links.

Page 23: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q24

If yes, which economic sectors does the circular economy strategy, policy, plan or objectives cover?(You may tick more than 1 box).

- Agriculture,**
- Fisheries,**
- Forestry,**
- Mining,**
- Industry,**
- Services,**
- Other (please specify),**

Additional information on the economic sectors covered by the circular economy strategy, policy, or plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Both the AfT strategy and the Circular Economy Action Plan address trade in a cross-sectoral way. Shipment of waste is given a special focus, arguably why services can be especially highlighted.

Q25

If yes, does the circular economy strategy, policy, plan or objectives include trade goals?

Yes,

Additional information on the trade objectives included in the circular economy strategy policy, or plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:

In the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, one commitment is that the Commission shall ensure that Free Trade Agreements reflect the enhanced objectives of the circular economy. In addition, facilitating preparing for re-use and recycling of waste in the EU will be enhanced by a thorough review of EU rules on waste shipments. The review will also aim at restricting exports of waste that have harmful environmental and health impacts in third countries or can be treated domestically within the EU by focusing on countries of destination, problematic waste streams, types of waste operations that are source of concern, and enforcement to counteract illegal shipments. The Commission will also support measures at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels to combat environmental crime notably in the areas of illegal exports and illicit trafficking, strengthen controls of shipments of waste, and improve the sustainable management of waste in these countries.

Q26

Is digital connectivity reflected as a priority in your sustainable development strategy, policy, or plan?

Yes,

Additional information on how digital connectivity is reflected in your sustainable development strategy, policy or plan.:

Digitalisation is one of the five priorities of the current European Commission. Similarly, promoting digital alliances and technologies is one of the five pillars upon which the development cooperation of the European Commission is based. Also, the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, referenced in Question 12-13, states that the Instrument shall promote the use of digitalisation as a powerful enabler for sustainable development and inclusive growth. For instance, it notes as an area of cooperation under inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent employment, that the EU should work towards: Promoting accessible, affordable, inclusive, reliable and secure digital connectivity and strengthening the digital economy; promoting digital literacy and skills; fostering digital entrepreneurship and job creation; promoting the use of digital technologies as an enabler for sustainable development; addressing cybersecurity, data privacy and other regulatory issues linked to digitalisation; Moreover, the Global Gateway Communication foresees massive investments in infrastructure and including for (digital or digitalised) connectivity.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint_communication_global_gateway.pdf There are also regional strategies that put digital connectivity among priorities, e.g. EU Strategy on Euro-Asian Connectivity: <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/connecting-europe-and-asia-building-blocks-eu-strategy> (2018) EU Strategy on Central Asia also brings on the digital connectivity dimension: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/17/central-asia-council-adopts-a-new-eu-strategy-for-the-region/> (2019) As well as in the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QA_NDA_21_4709 (2021) EU comprehensive strategy for Africa: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf - 2020, priority area 2.

Q27

Do you have an Aid-for-Trade strategy, policy or plan for digital connectivity (including digital economy, e-commerce, etc.)?

Yes,

Additional information on your Aid-for-Trade policy documents for digital connectivity. (Please include weblinks of the source used).:

The EU AfT strategy notes that Digitalisation is an enabling factor for accessing external markets and for integration into global value chains. Digital innovation has already demonstrated its potential to offer solutions to local problems, reduce trade costs and offer new business opportunities. Technological trends help innovative SMEs enter the market. EU aid for trade will encourage investment in digital technologies and services, computerisation, e-Government and e-commerce logistics, as well as on technical assistance for governments to establish policies and favourable frameworks to cross-border e-commerce. In addition there are regional cooperation Strategies (cited in response to Question 25) that involve digital connectivity among their priorities.

Q28

In which sectors could digital connectivity best support the transition to sustainable development?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the sector(s) in which digital connectivity can best support a transition to sustainable trade and the circular economy. (Please include weblinks of the source used).:

The response to the question will be context-specific depending on the existing structure as well as economic, political and digitalization challenges and opportunities in the particular country. When prioritising between interventions, and before the design and roll-out of them, a thorough analysis of the main local constraints is used. Nevertheless, while increased digital connectivity could improve productivity, job creation and a move towards sustainable development in all sectors, some stand out more than others. In particular, the service sector entails IT services, digital financial access and not least e-commerce readiness which all are enablers for competitiveness in other sectors.

Q29

Please identify which issues where digital connectivity would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development?(You may tick more than one box).

Digital contents,

E-civil service,

E-commerce,

E-government,

E-healthcare,

E-learning,

E-logistics,

Home energy management systems,

Innovation and technology for gender equality,

Real-time navigation,

Smart energy grids,

Smart motors,

Smart work,

Telepresence,

Transport information systems,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the issues where digital connectivity that would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development.:

The response to the question will be context-specific depending on the existing structure as well as economic, political and digitalization challenges and opportunities in the particular country. When prioritising between interventions, and before the design and roll-out of them, a thorough analysis of the main local constraints is carried out.

Q30

Is there an existing Aid-for-Trade project for digital connectivity towards sustainable development and/or environmentally sustainable growth (or circular economy) that you want to showcase as an example of best practice?

Yes,

Additional information on Aid-for-Trade projects for digital connectivity towards sustainable development, environmentally sustainable growth or circular economy that you want to showcase as an example of best practice. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):

In terms of Aid for trade, digital connectivity and environmental issues, one important achievement has been the launch of the Open Timber Portal. This open data platform provides reliable information on forest producers, facilitating in turn the enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). It is established based on the legality grid developed by national actors as part of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) process between the producer country and the European Union. A VPA is a legally binding trade agreement between the EU and a timber-exporting country outside the EU. A VPA aims to ensure that all timber and timber products destined for the EU market from a partner country comply with the laws of that country. For more information on the VPAs, please visit <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/what-is-a-vpa> and <https://opentimberportal.org/> The launch of the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub in December 2020 as a global multi-stakeholder platform marks a turning point in the EU's international partnerships to support a human-centric and green digital transformation. The D4D Hub bundles the multitude of digital initiatives by European actors for unparalleled coordinated impact. To this date, eleven EU Member States (Germany, Belgium, France, Estonia, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and Finland) have signed a Letter of Intent to cooperate under the D4D Hub towards a single European digital development strategy. The D4D Hub will form regional branches in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and include all relevant stakeholders from their respective regions. <https://d4dlaunch.eu> To strengthen digital innovation networks in Africa and promote intercontinental dialogue between African and European innovators and policymakers, the African European Digital Innovation Bridge, AEDIB, will create important opportunities for employment and pave the way for economic growth and recovery. Initiated by EU Member States (France, Belgium, and Germany) and the European Commission, the AEDIB will establish a PanAfrican network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). This network will encourage joint ventures between Africa and Europe and provide technical innovation expertise and experimentation for small and mid-size enterprises and start-ups. AEDIB will connect information and communications technology professionals, investors, academia, incubators, and national, regional and local authorities. By facilitating access to financing for African DIHs and mutual learning and joint solution development, AEDIB will help solve technological and entrepreneurial challenges, of which

climate-smart agriculture is one of three to be noted. A special focus on reaching and including youth and women will be incorporated through the Digital and Entrepreneurial Skills Academy. The partners in the AEDIB cover more than 80 countries, of which over 30 have already established DIHs (ca. 300 European DIH to date), with the vision to ultimately establish DIHs in every country, facilitating the creation of a single market for digital innovation in Africa and Europe.

<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/Digital4Development/discussion/flagship-african-european-digital-innovation-bridge-aedib?language=fr> The Sustainable Business for Uganda (SB4U) platform is a structured inclusive discussion platform between European and Uganda public and private sector stakeholders that identify, prioritize, and recommend consensus and fact-based solutions to the improvement of Uganda's Trade and Investment environment. This was established in line with the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs. The Platform is an innovative mechanism to engage public and private actors in Uganda and the EU to strengthen the investment climate, particularly concerning the green economy. One of three aims is to strategically engage the national government on key constraints, remedies and opportunities for sustainable and green investment. EU support to the platform is provided through the "Inclusive Green Economy Uptake Programme – GreenUP" (2019-2022; EUR 45 million) and "Promoting Inclusive Green Economy – PIGE" project (2019- 2022; EUR 60 million). <https://sb4uplatform.com/> Similar initiatives to promote digitalisation are being launched in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Asia and the Pacific. In Latin America, for example, the EU has been supporting digital transformation for more than 20 years, from increasing connectivity access (both infrastructure and TACB) and supporting the social, educational and economic transformation

Q31

Do you agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerator for the move to digital economy in your developing and least developed partner countries?

Yes,

Additional information on the impact of the pandemic on the uptake of the digital economy.:

Promoting e-commerce or digitalisation as part of Aid for Trade is a significant enabling factor for economic development. According to the World Economic Forum, over 60% of global GDP expected to be digitised by 2022, and an estimated 70% of new value created in the coming decade is forecast to be based on digitally enabled platforms. COVID-19 has accelerated digitalisation beyond the most ambitious predictions, and has, as estimated by McKinsey, compressed five years of progress within the space of three months. The process of exponential digitalisation has, however, further benefitted those countries, firms and skilled workers at the forefront who are ready to take advantage of new opportunities, thus posing a risk for an increased digital divide. Nevertheless, there has accordingly been a significant increase in demand and political willingness to engage in important digitalisation reforms. With the implementation of our cooperation, and thanks to the close policy and political dialogue we hold with our partner countries, the EU has been able to adapt quickly to the new demands in terms of supporting the digital transformation. As such, many of our programmes were amended at the beginning of the pandemic to reallocate priorities, activities and funds to support increasing digitalisation. A digital push has therefore taken place in the conceptualisation also of our cooperation and how we can better support partner countries in this endeavour. Besides the already explained relevance of digitalisation as a Commission priority inside the EU but also within our external relations, and the recognition in the NDICI Global Europe Regulation, the EU has launched many relevant initiatives (such as the aforementioned D4D) and programmes to support digitalisation. For example, the EU regional programme “Leveraging digital finance to increase resilience of ACP countries” (2020-2024, EUR 14 million) aims to contribute to the deployment of digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to deepen financial inclusion and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks. In Indonesia, the “ARISE+ Indonesia Trade Support Facility” (2019-2022, EUR 15 million) is supporting the engagement with the private sector through the establishment of an electronic interface¹ for ASEAN business councils, trade associations and chambers of commerce to engage with the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN Member States and discuss issues of trade facilitation, regional economic integration and intra-ASEAN trade. This has proven particularly timely to ensure continued engagement, in a secure and confidential environment, during the COVID-19 pandemic when physical meetings and consultative opportunities became more complex or impossible.

Q32

In which areas has the COVID-19 pandemic exposed shortcomings in digital connectivity?(You may tick more than one box).

Digital gender divide,

Digital payments issues,

Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity

,

Insufficient or uneven internet coverage,

Lack of access to trade finance,

Digital connectivity strategy needs to be developed/updated

,

E-commerce development strategy needs to be developed/updated

,

Poor access to internet services,

Poor digital skills and IT literacy,

Rules relating to e-commerce need updating,

Slow, expensive or unreliable internet services,

Trade facilitation and logistics issues,

Other, (please specify),

Additional information on the areas where the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed shortcomings in relation to digital connectivity. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:

All above-mentioned challenges have been observed, but the extent of which differs between countries.

Q33

Looking ahead, in which sectors do you think future Aid-for-Trade support should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,**Fisheries,****Forestry,****Mining,****Industry,****Services,****Other (please specify),**

Additional information on the sectors in which you think future Aid-for-Trade support should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives.:

The particular sector to focus on will depend on the specific country and can only be identified after proper and continuous analysis and driven by demand and local ownership. Nevertheless, the objectives of achieving diversification, moving into (green) industry while promoting decent work creation, and into value-added service provision remains fundamental in virtually all partner countries. And it could be argued that Services sector has been an underestimated area of support within AfT, which can often provide important benefits in terms of both job creation and greening the economy (e.g. as it often can have less of an environmental footprint, plus again as an enabler for transitioning in other sectors – e.g. by providing green skills, green finance, green transport services).

Q34

Looking ahead, in which categories of Aid for Trade do you think support should be focused so as to advance the environmental dimension of sustainable development?(You may tick more than 1 box).

- Trade policy and administrative management,
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs),
- Multilateral trade negotiations,
- Trade education/training,
- (b) Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)
- ,
- (d) Building productive capacity,
- (a) Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)
- ,
- (c) Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)
- ,
- Transport and storage infrastructure,
- Communications infrastructure,
- Energy supply and generation infrastructure,
- Business and other services,
- Banking and financial services,
- Building productive capacity,
- Agriculture,
- Forestry,
- Fishing,
- Industry,
- Mineral resources and mining,
- Travel and tourism,
- (e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)
- ,
- (f) Other trade related needs,

Additional information on the categories of Aid-for-Trade in which you think support should be focused so as to advance sustainable development.:

The most relevant areas will be context-specific and prioritization is and will be based on proper analysis, as well as consideration of development effectiveness principles. As one example, integrating environmental sustainability in trade policy and regulation is important to ensure a conducive policy environment and that trade and environmental policies are coordinated. Work on trade-related infrastructure has important potential to become greener, e.g. in ensuring access to renewable energy and energy-efficient transportation. Building productive capacity for businesses to be able to make a “green transition” is equally critical, depending on access to green finance, compliance with sustainability standards, understanding market dynamics of green products, etc. Also, and more generally, environmental sustainability needs to be integrated across the board in Aid for Trade. All EU programmes and interventions already need to have an environmental assessment and are undertaken according to EU guidelines for integration of environment and climate change in cooperation:

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/file/30041/download?token=Nce7Al1v> Article 8.8 of the NDICI-Global Europe regulation provides that ‘Programmes and actions under the Instrument shall mainstream the fight against climate change, environmental protection, [...] Those programmes and actions shall be based on a comprehensive multi-disciplinary analysis of context, capacities, risks and vulnerabilities, integrate a resilience approach [...]. They shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ [...]. The guiding questions in the present annex to the Action Document (AD) are to be used primarily to support the drafting of the AD by the Lead and/or Responsible Service to ensure mainstreaming of key cross-cutting issues linked to policy and programmatic priorities. Article 25.5 states that Appropriate environmental screening, including for climate change and biodiversity impacts, shall be undertaken at the level of actions [...] comprising, where applicable, an environmental impact assessment, including the impact on climate change, ecosystems and biodiversity, for environmentally sensitive actions, in particular for major new infrastructure.

Q35

To which developing and least-developed partner countries do you provide Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development ? (You may tick more than one box).(You may tick more than 1 box).

Afghanistan,
Angola,
Armenia,
Bangladesh,
Belarus,
Benin,
Bolivia, Plurinational State,
Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Brazil,
Burkina Faso,
Burundi,
Cambodia,
Cameroon,
Central African Republic,
China,
Colombia,
Congo,
Costa Rica,
Côte d'Ivoire,
Cuba,
Democratic Republic of the Congo,
Djibouti,
Ecuador,
Egypt,
Eritrea,
Eswatini,
Ethiopia,
Fiji,
Gabon,
Georgia,
Ghana,
Guatemala,
Guinea,
Guinea-Bissau,
Guyana,
Haiti,
Honduras,
India,
Indonesia,

2022 Aid for Trade Donor Questionnaire

Jamaica,
Jordan,
Kyrgyz Republic,
Lao People's Democratic Republic,
Liberia,
Madagascar,
Malawi,
Malaysia,
Maldives,
Mauritania,
Mauritius,
Mexico,
Mongolia,
Montenegro,
Morocco,
Mozambique,
Myanmar,
Namibia,
Nepal,
Nicaragua,
Nigeria,
Pakistan,
Papua New Guinea,
Philippines,
Rwanda,
Senegal,
Sierra Leone,
Somalia,
South Sudan,
Sri Lanka,
Tajikistan,
Thailand,
Togo,
Tunisia,
Uganda,
Ukraine,
Viet Nam,
Yemen,
Zimbabwe,

Additional information on the partners to which you provide Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development.:

Please note that the countries highlighted here are those in which the EU Delegation responded to an internal survey to which they exemplified AfT projects on the environmental dimension of sustainable development. This is likely to be an underestimation, considering that not all country-specific Delegations had the capacity to respond with project examples.

Q36

Please identify the South-South and Triangular cooperation partners you work with in order to provide financing for sustainable development.(You may tick more than 1 box).

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the South-South and Triangular cooperation partners with which you associate in order to provide financing for sustainable development and any examples of projects/programmes that you would like to showcase.:

The EU is one of the leading donors promoting South-South Cooperation (SSCP) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) worldwide. With our programmes, we facilitate SSC and TrC by funding actions between partner countries, by promoting Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB) from one partner country to another, promoting the exchange of knowledge and expertise between peers, and the creation networks between partner countries. In the EU AfT Strategy, The relevant action from the updated EU AfT strategy is to Expand engagement with more advanced developing countries including through South-South and triangular cooperation, and in areas of mutual interest (e.g. regional integration, regional value- chains, trade facilitation and exchange of best practice). The EU and its Member States are active in Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (UMICs), promoting regional integration, trade facilitation, exchange of best practices and working on sustainable regional value chains. EU Aid for Trade in UMICs is more concentrated on banking and financial services that received 26% of all cumulative commitments over the period 2010-2019, compared to 3% for LDCs and 12% for LMICs, and building non-trade development related productive capacity, with a share of 37% of all commitments compared with 25% for LDCs and 24% for LMICs.

Q37

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme for sustainable trade or development, green growth or circular economy that you want to showcase as an example of best practice?

Several examples are mentioned below.

1. EU and Ukraine established a dedicated policy dialogue on green transition in February 2021. It focuses on climate governance architecture and the update of the Nationally Determined Contribution, green transition financing, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, the Energy Efficiency Fund, hydrogen technologies, the “just transition” of coal regions, European Industry Alliances and Ukraine’s forestry strategy. In terms of support and projects, Ukraine has been supported by the EU via various programmes such as EU4Climate and EU4Environment, numerous projects on energy efficiency, such as the flagship Energy Efficiency Fund or the E5P multi-donor programme.
2. The “Ship to Shore Rights South East Asia” (2020-2024, EUR 10 million), is a multi-country, multi-annual initiative of the European Union (EU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). It promotes a multi-stakeholders and integrated approach to support the fundamental principles and rights at work and to address major gaps that had been identified. In Thailand, The “Ship to shore Rights” project - Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry) (2016-2020 EUR 4.2 Million) was the flagship project of the Delegation, complementing the dialogue on IUU and triggering the EU-Thailand labour dialogue. This project supported the process of the ratifications by the Royal Thai Government of the ILO’s Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention (P029), with Thailand becoming the first country in Asia to do so. Other major achievements of this project, include the deployment of an additional 180 newly trained labour inspectors around Thailand, the rolling out of the Good Labour Practices programmes by leading seafood-processing associations, and the strengthening of the workers’ voice and representation. The project’s endline report found that more migrant workers entered the workforce through regular migration channels; salaries increased in the order of 28 per cent for fishers surveyed in 2019, and 15 per cent for seafood workers; and housing conditions were improved over the last five years. A follow-up regional action was launched in 2020, focusing on the angle of labour migration in the fishing sector.
3. In Cambodia, the CAPFISH Capture - Post Harvest Fisheries Development project (2019-2024, EUR 16 million) aims at inclusive post-harvest fisheries development focusing on strengthening the institutional capacity of the Competent Authority for establishing official control systems and subsequently supporting the development of post-harvest fisheries, through capacity building in terms of skills development, food safety system implementation, matching investment support and building business support mechanisms in terms of research, development and innovation. The project includes activities to support the local private sector to comply with international standards and market requirements relevant to the post-harvest fisheries. The project will also support the fisheries administration inspectors on the inspection and non-compliance of food safety standard and requirements related to Cambodian Quality Seal, develop standards and/or technical regulations for official control of fish and fishery products, establish residue limits for fish and fishery products based on the existing legal framework and Codex, and strengthen capacity of national laboratories through training on ISO 17025 and support on laboratory management system.
4. The regional project “Disrupting illicit supply chains of wildlife in Asia by leveraging civil society partnerships to increase the effectiveness of Government action” (2018 – 2022; EUR 7 million) brings together state and non-state actors to increase trans-boundary coordination, and leverage on policy reforms and actions to combat wildlife trafficking between Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and China, through CSO-Government partnerships. It is also facilitating the coordination and collection of information and intelligence between CITES checkpoints, protected areas and wildlife crime units. In Lao PDR, it is making good progress in increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement responses to illegal wildlife trade through capacity building and intelligence analysis support, as well as to promote trans-boundary cooperation in tackling wildlife trafficking between Lao PDR and neighbouring countries, in particular Vietnam.
5. The EU, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, and the Netherlands fund the EU Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Facility (EU REDD Facility), which supports countries in testing strategic and innovative solutions for designing, implementing and monitoring REDD+ strategies and monitoring the fulfilment of zero-deforestation commitments. It collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil society organisations to contribute to subnational, national, EU and international policy-making. The facility supported in 2020 nine countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cameroon Cote d’Ivoire, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo).
6. The EU FLEGT Facility - funded by the EU and the governments of Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden

and the UK - supports the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan with a focus on VPAs, setting out a programme of actions that forms the EU's response to the problem of illegal logging and the trade in associated timber products.

7. Launched in 2007, the SWITCH-Asia programme has achieved more than a decade of progress on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in 24 countries in the region. This has been possible through the joint efforts of the three SWITCH-Asia components: regional policy advocacy, the SCP facility and a grant programme. Under SWITCH-Asia nearly EUR 300 million have been invested towards promoting SCP in Asia and Central Asia, with 130 projects funded in the region over a period of 14 years of which 22 new ones active as of 2020. Over 500 Asian and European non-for-profit partners, about 100 private sector associates and 80,000 Asian micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have been supported.

8. The SwitchMed initiative was launched in 2013 to speed up the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Southern Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia), notably through the promotion of circular economy approaches. Phase I covered the period 2013-2018 with a budget of EUR 24 million. Phase II of the SwitchMed Initiative (2018-2023, EUR 22 million) aims at achieving a circular economy in the Southern Mediterranean by changing the way goods and services are produced and consumed so that human development is decoupled from environmental degradation. In order to achieve this, the initiative provides tools and services directly to the private sector, supports an enabling policy environment, and facilitates exchange of information among partners and key stakeholders. The SwitchMed initiative is aligned with the New Circular Economy Action Plan adopted by the European Commission. The measures for mainstreaming sustainable products and empowering consumers and public buyers presented in the Action Plan have a strong focus on the sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as plastics, textiles, and food.

9. The SWITCH Africa Green, also launched in 2013, supports stakeholders in Africa in achieving sustainable development by transitioning to an inclusive green economy based on sustainable consumption and production. It provides opportunities for the private sector to move to more resource-efficient, environmentally sound business practices that also increase profitability, create green jobs and reduce poverty. The collaboration with partners in the public and private sectors aims at advancing green business development, eco-entrepreneurship and sustainable consumption and production practices. The initiative targets four high-priority sectors: agriculture, manufacturing, integrated waste management and tourism focusing on five thematic cross-cutting areas: energy efficiency, labelling and standards, water efficiency, eco-innovation and sustainable trade. The programme consists of three components (green business development, policy support and a networking facility), and is active in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, and Uganda.

10. The "EU4Environment Programme", launched in 2019, helps six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being. It supports environment-related actions, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. EU4Environment is helping EaP countries implement Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in SMEs activities, promote green products, public procurement and eco-labelling, and reinforce compliance assurance.

Page 27: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q38

Do you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development and that also support progress on gender equality and/or women's economic empowerment?

Yes,

Additional information on whether you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development while also supporting progress on gender equality /women empowerment. You may also provide information on your intention to draft such policies in the future. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

The NDICI-Global Europe Regulation referenced in response to Question 12 and onwards includes specific ambitions on environment, gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Q39

Do you implement Aid-for-Trade projects that combine the objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmentally sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on the Aid-for-Trade projects which combine the twin objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmental environmentally sustainable development. Please indicate the number of projects, the sector concerned (agriculture, fisheries, sustainable tourism, circular economy, etc.). (Please include weblinks as applicable):.

WEE and environmental sustainability are two of the priorities of the EU. All EU actions supporting economic growth have mainstreamed WEE and environmental sustainability. To give some concrete examples, in Ethiopia, the EU programme "Promotion of Sustainable Ethiopian Agro-industrial Development (PROSEAD)" (2019-2025, EUR 45 million), aims to generate entrepreneurial and job opportunities for women in agro-processing and related sectors, and will provide them with targeted and customised training in basic skills, food technology and business skills. The enhancement of the skills of youth and women in the parks and their catchment areas and the improvement of decent employment conditions are one of the expected results of the programme. In Ethiopia, the programme "Bottom Up! Promoting a sustainable cotton & garment value chain from Ethiopian cotton to European consumers" (2019-2022, EUR 1.5 million) aims to contribute to a sustainable, inclusive and transparent value chain that generates business growth, improves working conditions, and promotes labour and environmental standards and responsible purchasing practices in Ethiopia and Europe. The objective is promoting and advocating for the adoption of responsible social and environmental practices benchmarked with international standards in Ethiopia by 14 cotton & garment producers and promoting transparency and responsible purchasing practices along the value chain among 175 EU businesses and promoting responsible buying behaviour of 1.2 million consumers in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. By sharing experiences, government institutions will support these practices and convert them into applicable policies respecting labour rights, particularly for female workers. The Responsible Supply Chains in Asia Programme (2017-2021, EUR 4.5 million), implemented by ILO and OECD, aims to further sustainable and inclusive economic, social and environmental progress by integrating responsible business practices into the operations of multinational companies and their supply chains. Active in selected industrial sectors in six Asian countries (China, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam), it takes a multifaceted approach with the aim of promoting respect for human rights, and labour and environmental standards. Over the period 2018-2021 the programme has worked with almost 10,000 professionals from 2,244 businesses, of which 1,226 were SMEs and 1018 multinational enterprises (MNEs). It has contributed

to the creation of a seafood think tank in Vietnam, a tripartite working group in the Philippines' agricultural sector, and a task force on promoting socially responsible and sustainable business in auto parts supply chains in Thailand.

Q40

Any other information you wish to share? (e.g., where support for sustainable trade or development is needed).

Respondent skipped this question

Page 29: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q41

Is women's economic empowerment included as an objective in your development or Aid-for-Trade strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is included as an objective in your Aid-for-Trade strateg(ies) policy(ies) or plan(s):
Promoting gender equality is a key priority for the EU, stemming from the founding EU Treaties, which specify gender equality as a fundamental EU value and objective. The EU Global Strategy highlights gender equality and women's empowerment as cross cutting priorities for all policies and this is reinforced in the European Consensus on Development, which cuts across the entire 2030 Agenda, while underlining the need to mainstream gender perspectives in all actions. Moreover, the EU Gender Equality Strategy highlights women's economic empowerment as one of the key areas in EU external actions. The EU Aid for Trade Strategy states that EU aid for trade will help fulfill the EU's renewed and expanded commitment on gender equality and, in particular women's economic empowerment, and calls for systematic gender analysis of every aid for trade project in order to promote women economic empowerment. As operational guidance for all external actions, the third EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III), approved in November 2020, identifies women's economic empowerment as one of the five pillars to close the gender gap. Special emphasis is given to creating equal opportunities for women in trade.

Page 30: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q42

If yes, please indicate the strategy, policy, or plan in which women's economic empowerment is included: (You may tick more than one box).

Aid-for-Trade or development strategy, policy or plan,
Gender equality strategy, policy or plan,
Trade development strategy, policy or plan,
Women's economic empowerment's strategy, policy or plan

Additional information on the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that include women's economic empowerment. (Please include weblinks as applicable).:

All EU policies recognise women empowerment in all its dimensions. Therefore all trade related EU policies include references to women economic empowerment and gender equality. Some references: The EU Aid for Trade Strategy, COM(2017)667 final, Achieving Prosperity through Trade and Investment Updating the 2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM%3A2017%3A667%3AFIN> The EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152> The EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf The EU Trade Policy Review - An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/february/tradoc_159438.pdf Apart from already referred-to documents, the EU Trade Policy Review, adopted in early 2021 and referred to in e.g. question 12 (with relevant web link), states among other things that the Commission will also carry out work to develop a better understanding of the gender equality implications of various parts of trade policy and inform actions for improved gender awareness in trade policy, including in Aid for Trade.

Q43

Do the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identified seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation (including through the provision of flexible work arrangements)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identify seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

The EU is based on the welfare state where respect to conditions of employment or occupation are embedded in all our policies and actions. Specifically, and related to the the EU Aid for Trade Strategy, it calls for EU aid for trade to take due account of the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda (standards and rights at work, employment creation and enterprise development, social protection and social dialogue) and to build on the broadened possibilities offered by 'new generation' EU FTAs to support labor rights and the Decent Work Agenda, through the binding social and environmental provisions contained in the Trade and Sustainable Development chapters. The systematic gender analysis of every aid for trade project in order to promote women economic empowerment includes considering the objectives on access to decent work for women of all ages as stated in the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025). The EU Gender Equality Strategy states that the Commission will continue to actively promote gender equality through its trade policy, including through its active engagement on the issue in the World Trade Organization. The Commission will continue to gather gender-disaggregated data, to ensure that trade-related aspects of gender are adequately addressed in trade agreements and to consider gender impact in trade initiatives. The EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) recognizes that women and men in all their diversity should have equal opportunities, equal access to employment, decent work, equal pay for equal work in order to be economically independent. It calls for EU action to contribute to promoting decent work, equal pay and labor rights, and women's transition to the formal economy, among other by reducing labor market segregation, boosting women's leadership and increasing their bargaining power in economic and household decision-making and social dialogue, in sectors with a majority of women workers, including domestic work, as well as in non-traditional sector. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM%3A2017%3A667%3AFIN> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152> https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

Q44

Does your government collect/institution data on women's economic empowerment in relation to trade and development?

Yes,

Additional information on the data on women's economic empowerment that your government/institution collects. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

The below joint staff working document (SWD) complements the joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council – “Gender Action Plan III: an ambitious vision on gender equality and women’s empowerment for EU External action”¹, by providing a set of objectives and indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of GAP III and measure its results at country, regional and international levels

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2020-284-objectives-indicators-gap-iii_en.pdf

Q45

In your view, what trade and development constraints do women face the most?(You may tick more than one box).

- Difficulties accessing financial services,**
- Difficult working conditions,**
- Discriminatory practices,**
- Difficulties in meeting regulatory and procedural requirements**
- ,**
- Exclusion from male-dominated distribution networks**
- ,**
- Gender pay gap,**
- Harassment, security and safety issues,**
- High trade barriers,**
- Lack of access to digital services,**
- Lack of access to redress options,**
- Informal employment,**
- Occupational segregation,**
- Poor access to information,**
- Poor access to professional bodies (e.g., chambers of commerce)**
- ,**
- Restricted access to markets,**
- Seasonal employment,**
- Smaller sized business,**
- Time and mobility constraints,**
- Unpaid employment,**
- Other (please specify),**

Additional information on the trade and development constrains faced by women.:

The key constraints vary between countries and target groups in focus, which is why a proper contextualised analysis is needed. In general women are often facing multiple barriers that limit their opportunities.

Q46

Can Aid for Trade play a role in addressing these constraints?

Yes,
 Additional information on the role that Aid for Trade can play in addressing these constraints.:
 The specific role Aid for Trade can play in addressing these questions is dependent on the constraints and the country specific situation.

Q47

Have you provided Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment during the period 2015-2020?

Yes,

Additional information on whether you have requested Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment in 2015-2020, including reasons as to why or why not.:

Gender equality and women's economic empowerment are supported through the Aid for Trade programmes globally with an increasing attention year by year. Over 40% of the respondents for the EU Aid for Trade progress report 2021 said that supporting women economic empowerment was systematically addressed in their AfT programmes either considerably or extremely.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/eu-aid-for-trade-progress-report-2021_en.pdf The EU Gender Action Plan II progress report 2019 finds that estimated budget of EUR 8.7 billion worth of development funding supported gender equality and women's empowerment in 2019 (or 56.95% of total funding). Funding that specifically targets gender equality and women's empowerment (i.e. 'G2') amounted to EUR 643 million (4.21% of the total). The amount of funds committed that specifically target gender equality has increased every year since 2016, as has the proportion of these funds within overall development funding. 1,853 reported actions focusing on the Gender Action Plan II thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', that contributed to advancing SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4 ('Quality Education'), SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7 ('Affordable and Clean Energy'), SDG 8 ('Decent Work and Economic Growth') and SDG 9 ('Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation').

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/eu_gap_2019_web_0.pdf

Q48

If yes, please provide further information on the countries in which you have provided Aid-for-Trade programmes on women's economic empowerment.

Number of total projects implemented in the period 2015-2020

1,853 reported actions focusing on the Gender Action Plan II thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment in the progress report of 2019.

Duration in years (1, 2 or more than 3)

N/A

Percentage of projects that included women's economic empowerment as their sole/main objective (please include the % sign in your response)

EUR 8.7 billion worth of development funding supported gender equality and women's empowerment in 2019 (or 56.95% of total funding). Funding that specifically targets gender equality and women's empowerment (i.e. 'G2') amounted to EUR 643 million (4.21% of the total).

Percentage of projects that also included other objectives (please specify which in the box below and include the % sign in your response)

EUR 8.7 billion worth of development funding supported gender equality and women's empowerment in 2019 (or 56.95% of total funding). Funding that specifically targets gender equality and women's empowerment (i.e. 'G2') amounted to EUR 643 million (4.21% of the total).

Q49

Please specify the areas that your Aid-for-Trade projects for women's economic empowerment sought to address:(You may tick more than one box).

- Developing training programmes,**
- Developing Access to trade related infrastructure,**
- Capacity-strengthening initiatives,**
- Increasing women's participation in services sectors,**
- Facilitating access to digital technologies and e-commerce platforms**
- ,
- Facilitating access to trade finance,**
- Facilitating access to trade-related information,**
- Facilitating women's traders' inclusion in Global Value Chains (GVC)**
- ,
- Facilitating women traders' inclusion in regional trade.**
- ,
- Gender sensitive awareness initiatives for trade stakeholders (e.g., border officials regarding safety issues);**
- ,
- Supporting women's entrepreneurship,**
- Supporting women-owned/led MSMEs to export,**
- Supporting women's representation in trade policy and design of trade/Aid-for-Trade initiatives**
- ,
- Other (please specify),**

Additional information on the areas that the Aid-for-Trade projects for women's economic empowerment sought to address. Please describe your project(s) in no more than 300 words per box. (You may include references and weblinks and add information on results achieved as applicable, i.e. figures, case stories):

EU actions are country or region specific, and therefore, all the areas are tackled within the many ongoing programmes we have in place. For instance, in Ethiopia, the EU programme "Promotion of Sustainable Ethiopian Agro-industrial Development (PROSEAD)" (2019-2025, EUR 45 million), aims to generate entrepreneurial and job opportunities for women in agroprocessing and related sectors, and will provide them with targeted and customised training in basic skills, food technology and business skills. The enhancement of the skills of youth and women in the parks and their catchment areas and the improvement of decent employment conditions are one of the expected results of the programme.

Q50

Have you used public-private partnerships to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment?

Yes,

Additional information on the public-private partnerships used to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment. Please include reasons as to why or why not. Kindly provide a list of your private sector partners, the number of projects run, and the sectors concerned. You may also describe each project and their impacts in no more than 300 words per project. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: For instance, in Benin, the EU is supporting the integration of gender budgeting in the budgetary cycle (being piloted within seven ministries) and the provision of gender-disaggregated statistics. The "Projet d'appui au renforcement des acteurs du secteur privé – PARASEP" (2014-2021, EUR 10 million) aims to improve the business environment, strengthen the Public Private Dialogue and support productive value chains. The pineapple and the shea butter have significant potential to create employment particularly amongst women. The project has a comprehensive gender plan that allows monitoring of activities with data disaggregated by gender.
<https://parasepbj.org/fr/>

Q51

Does Aid for Trade help to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment?

Yes,

Additional information on how Aid for Trade helps to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment, including the reasons as to why or why not.: For instance, the EU Financial Inclusion Programme - InclusiFi implemented by CDP (Italy) and AECID (Spain), will increase the financing available for local entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan and Northern Africa, who currently struggle to access the loans or capital they need to start or expand their businesses. The EU, by providing a financial guarantee of up to EUR 60 million, is set to leverage total project budget up to EUR 235 million. It will particularly support small businesses led by women, young people and migrants. As a result, the Programme will help to reduce inequality and create jobs.
https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/projects/financial-inclusion-programme-inclusifi_en

Q52

Are your Aid-for-Trade projects involving women's economic empowerment underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation/ results framework?

Yes,

Additional information on how your Aid-for-Trade projects involving women's economic empowerment are underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation/ results framework.:

The EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III) is binding for all the EU external action programmes, including Aid for Trade. The GAP III joint staff working document (SWD) provides a set of objectives and indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of GAP III and measure its results at country, regional and international levels.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2020-284-objectives-indicators-gap-iii_en.pdf

Q53

Does the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment that you provide align with your partners' trade priorities and objectives?

Yes,

Additional information on how the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment you provide aligns with your partner's trade priorities and objectives.:

The EU GAP III is a result of extensive consultations of different stakeholders, including different organisations and EU Member States and reflects the input received. The EU Gender Action Plan is also implemented by all the EU Member States. Country-specific operations are developed in consultations with local stakeholders.

Page 35: SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT OR AID POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q54

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies?

Yes,

Additional information on the particular difficulties faced by women in accessing digital technology, including your data sources. (Please provide information in no more than 300 words including references and weblinks).:

For instance, the EU conducted a study recently on gender digital divide (Digital4Women) in Africa laying down many of the particular difficulties women face in accessing digital technologies.

https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-gender/documents?sort=views&order=asc>erm%5B0%5D=2245>erm%5B1%5D=7678&items_per_page=25

Q55

Please identify the top 5 barriers that prevent women from accessing digital technology:(You may tick a maximum of 5 boxes).

Difficulty obtaining proof of identification necessary to access internet services

,

High cost of device (e.g., mobile phone),

High usage costs,

Inadequate electricity infrastructure,

Inadequate network infrastructure,

Lack of access to public facilities where the internet is available

,

Lack of awareness of opportunities offered by digital technologies

,

Limited internet connectivity,

Poor IT literacy and/or skills,

Privacy, safety and harassment concerns,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the top 5 barriers preventing women from accessing digital technology in your country. (Please provide information in no more than 300 words including references and weblinks).:

The question refers to "top barriers [...] in your country" but we have interpreted this to mean our partner countries. The key barriers, however, will differ between countries, making it difficult to pick a few here.

Q56

Looking ahead, in which trade sectors do you think future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry,

Services,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the sectors in which future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed.:

All sectors are relevant the EU supports women's economic empowerment across all of them. The priorities can only be identified after thorough contextual analysis and interventions targeted according to development effectiveness principles, such as alignment with national priorities and donor coordination.

Q57

Looking ahead, in which Aid-for-Trade categories do you think future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed?(You may tick more than 1 box).

- Trade policy and administrative management,
- Trade facilitation,
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs),
- Multilateral trade negotiations,
- Trade education/training,
- (b) Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)
- ,
- (d) Building productive capacity,
- (a) Trade policy and regulations (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for national stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)
- ,
- (c) Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)
- ,
- Transport and storage infrastructure,
- Communications infrastructure,
- Energy supply and generation infrastructure,
- Business and other services,
- Banking and financial services,
- Building productive capacity,
- Agriculture,
- Forestry,
- Fishing,
- Industry,
- Mineral resources and mining,
- Travel and tourism,
- (e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)
- ,
- (f) Other trade related needs,
- Unsure,

Additional information on the categories of Aid-for-Trade in which you think support should be focused so as to

advancesustainable development.:

Please see our response to Question 55, equally relevant here. The focus of the support depends on the country and situation in question and all the above objectives are relevant for women's economic empowerment in the context of Aid for Trade.

Q58

You may use the box below to elaborate on how you think that Aid for Trade can advance women's economic empowerment.

It is crucial to recognise and analyse the different impacts that economic reforms and trade-related regulations and programmes have on men and women, including Aid for Trade actions and reflect this in the decision-making processes. It is also important to ensure that women's organisations are actively involved in the identification and formulation of Aid for Trade programmes and that all stakeholders, such as social partners, market associations and cooperatives, take into account the gender dimension.

Page 37: END OF SURVEY

Q59

CONSULTATION (Other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply):

N/A
