



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



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Q1

Respondent

European Commission - DG for International Partnerships

Q2

About you

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Page 3: SECTION A: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRIORITIES

Q3

Yes

Do you have development cooperation strategy(ies) or policy(ies)?

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Q4

If yes, does your development cooperation strategy(ies) or policy(ies) include trade priorities? Explanatory notes: For example, the UK's policy paper on international development published in May 2022 states that the UK will support countries to increase their exports, increase trade with the UK, build sustainable and resilient global supply chains that benefit all, and tackle market distorting practices and economic policies. The policy paper outlines various ways in which these trade priorities will be advanced.

Yes,

If yes, please provide further details including hyperlinks to relevant documents containing trade priorities.: The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI – Global Europe) was adopted in June 2021 and aims to support countries most in need to overcome long-term developmental challenges and will contribute to achieving the international commitments and objectives that the European Union has agreed to, in particular the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, for the period of 2021 until 2027. The majority of funding is provided under geographic programmes, which includes five areas of cooperation: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. While trade aspects are mainstreamed in various thematic areas, the Prosperity area in particular includes several trade priorities, such as aiming to support “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 WTO.” Trade priorities are also featured under the work on Global Challenges under thematic programmes, which exists in addition to the above-mentioned geographic programmes. Moreover, in December 2021 the European Commission and the EU High Representative set out the Global Gateway, a new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. With its emphasis on soft and hard infrastructure, it will connect the EU with partner countries and enable international trade. The NDICI regulation is available online: [EUR-Lex - 32021R0947 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021R0947) The Global Gateway website is available here: eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021JC0030

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Q5**Yes**

Does your development cooperation strategy(ies) or policy(ies) have a thematic focus?

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Q6

If yes, please choose options from the non-exhaustive list of thematic options of key strategic objectives below. (If an objective(s) do not appear in the drop-down list, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick all relevant boxes.)

DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS:

- '
- Economic diversification,**
- Export diversification,**
- Expansion of the extractive sector (minerals and mining)**
- '
- Expansion of the agriculture sector,**
- Expansion of the forestry sector,**
- Expansion of the fisheries sector,**
- Expansion of the digital economy,**
- Infrastructure development,**
- Innovation and technological development,**
- Expansion of the MSME sector,**
- Expansion of public-private partnerships,**
- Human capital development (e.g. education through skills, training and health)**
- '
- Higher labour productivity,**
- Trade integration,**
- Employment creation,**
- Women's economic empowerment and gender equality**
- '
- Youth employment and skills,**
- Inclusive growth, including (historically) disadvantaged groups (e.g. including people with disabilities).**
- '
- Institutional strengthening (e.g. good governance, transparency and accountability)**
- '
- Social protection,**
- Promotion of peace/security and development,**
- Climate change adaptation,**
- Preventing desertification,**
- Protection of biodiversity,**
- Environmental protection,**
- Sustainable resource management,**
- Waste management and pollution control,**
- Circular economy,**

Improved environmental governance,
 Pollution control targets,
 Oceans and blue economy,
 Food security,
DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS:
 ,
 Climate change mitigation,
DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS:

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Q7

Yes

Do the trade priorities found in your development plan or strategy include partner country specific development objectives or targets ? Explanatory notes: For example, the International Trade Centre's Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2025 contains several targets, including: to support 75,000 micro, small and medium sized enterprises, 1,200 business support organizations and develop at least 400 trade-related policies, strategies and regulations (depending on the level of funding received).

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Q8

Other targets (e.g. digital connectivity, gender equality, renewable energy, circular economy etc.)

If yes, choose options from the non-exhaustive list of options of key strategic objectives found in your development strategies/plans. (If an objective(s) or target* do not appear in the list below, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick relevant boxes).

,
 Additional information on key strategic objectives::
 For the period 2021-27, the EU defines its cooperation priority areas and specific objectives for most Neighbourhood partner countries and regions in multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs). These strategic documents contain indicative financial allocations, objectives, results and indicators (with baseline and targets) to measure EU intervention effectiveness. MIPs for each country/region are found on the following website: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-technical-assistance/funding-instruments/global-europe-programming_en

Page 9: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES

Q9

Do you have a separate trade and development policy or strategy (e.g. an Aid for Trade strategy) ? Explanatory notes: For example, the European Union published an updated Aid-for-Trade strategy in 2017 and has published annual progress reports on the strategy's implementation.

Yes,

Additional information on the presence of a separate trade and development policy or strategy, such as an Aid for Trade strategy: If yes, please provide further details, including dates the strategy covers and hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate if there is another development cooperation strategy or policy that includes trade targets (e.g. a multiyear strategic plan issued by a development finance institution):

The EU's Aid for Trade strategy was adopted in 2007 in response to the Aid for Trade initiative the World Trade Organization (WTO) launched in 2005. It encourages developing countries to recognise the role trade can play in their sustainable development. The EU's Aid for Trade strategy helps partner countries better integrate into the global trading system and take greater advantage of the poverty-reducing benefits of economic openness and enhanced trade efficiency. The EU's Aid for Trade strategy was revised in 2017 to follow a broader approach, in line with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It considers the interlinkages that exist between investment and trade, which need to be fully exploited to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives of the EU AfT strategy are to: - better align EU AfT interventions with market-driven opportunities and constraints - focus more on least developed countries (LDCs) as they need the most support - vary approach depending on country's level of development - use a variety of AfT instruments (grants, budget support, blending and guarantees, improving investment climate etc.) - increase the contribution of AfT to SDGs while supporting a stronger participation of women in the economy The joint EU AfT strategy is available here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0667> The implementation of the strategy is followed up by Annual AfT Progress Reports.

Q10

Do the priorities, themes and sectoral objectives found in your Aid-for-Trade programming align with the trade priorities found in your development strategy(ies)?

Yes, in part,

Additional information on the alignment between the priorities, themes, and sectoral objectives found in your Aid-for-Trade programming and the trade priorities in your development strategy(ies)::

The AfT (2007) precedes the NDICI-Global Europe regulation (2021); however it is underpinned by the same broad principles and objectives found in notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new European Consensus on Development. NDICI-Global Europe mirrors the objectives of trade-related development cooperation found in the AfT strategy. In addition, the Global Gateway strategy encompasses several of the themes and objectives of the AfT strategy, for example through its focus on sustainability, trade facilitation and modalities of mobilizing private sector investments and aligning interventions with market-driven opportunities and constraints, among other things.

Page 11: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES

Q11

Does your development cooperation policy or Aid-for-Trade strategy include objectives or targets for partner countries?

Yes

Q12

If yes, please tick relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate in the text box under the question choices whether there is another trade and development cooperation strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets.

OBJECTIVES;

Security of supply,
Improved balance of payments situation,
Increased competitiveness,
Expansion of agricultural exports,
Expansion of exports of forestry products,
Expansion of exports of fishery products,
Expansion of manufactured exports,
Expansion of services exports,
Expansion of e-commerce and/or digitally delivered services exports
 ,
Expansion of MSME sector exports,
Protection of intellectual property,
Growth in the number of export markets reached,
Improvements in trade facilitation,
Climate change related objectives (e.g. reduction in emissions associated with trade)
 ,
Export-related environmental protection objectives,
Export growth targets,
Export diversification in terms of number of markets reached
 ,
Expansion of mineral and mining exports,
Export diversification in terms of number of goods and services exported
 ,
Access to essential goods,
Reduction in import targets,
Competitiveness ranking in global index,
Mineral and mining export growth target,
Agricultural export growth target,
Forestry product export target,
Fishery products export target,
Manufactured export target,
Services trade export target,
E-commerce export target,
MSME sector growth targets,
Revenue targets from different forms of IP rights (e.g. copyright, trademarks etc)

,

Export markets diversification targets,

Trade facilitation targets (e.g. time taken to release),

Emissions reduction targets found in nationally determined contributions**

,

Trade-related targets to reduce certain trade flows (e.g. illicit wildlife trade)

,

Better export performance,

TARGETS*:,

Additional information on objectives or targets for partner countries included in your development cooperation policy or Aid-for-Trade strategy. Please include hyperlinks to relevant documents::

Relevant objectives depend on the specific context of the country or region, and are found in the MIPs referred to in Question 8. On a horizontal level, the EU AfT strategy includes specific actions such as to increase the proportion of EU and Member States' aid for trade directed towards Least Developed Countries with a vision to progressively achieve one fourth of total EU AfT by 2030, to help achieve the SDG target of doubling their share of global exports.

Q13

Do you have targets in other development strategies that may have trade priorities or influence your Aid-for-Trade financing? Explanatory notes: For example, USAID's climate strategy for the period 2022-2030 includes six targets that have relevance for overall trade cooperation and development policy. These targets include: mitigating 6 billion tons of CO2 equivalent; conserving, restoring or managing 100 million hectares or natural ecosystems; enabling improved climate resilience for 500 billion people; mobilizing USD 150 billion in public and private climate finance; supporting 80 countries; increasing equitable engagement with 40 country partnerships.

Yes,

Additional information on whether you have targets in other development strategies that may have trade priorities or influence your Aid-for-Trade financing:: The Global Gateway, a new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world, emphasises hard and soft infrastructure, to connect the EU with partner countries and enable international trade. The Global Gateway website is available here: eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021JC0030 Secondly, the EU Global Health Strategy from 2022 aims to ensure, among other things, that trade policy works for global health, so that international pharmaceutical supply chains are not broken, and that partners benefit from medicines, medical devices and services. It aims to strengthen the resilience of health systems through the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade and Health Initiative and sharing experiences with WTO partners on trade facilitation. The strategy is found here: https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/international_ghs-report-2022_en.pdf Thirdly, the Joint EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III from 2020 sets the objective of continuing to promote gender equality through EU trade policy, including through trade agreements, the inclusion of gender analyses in ex-ante impact assessments and promotion of such linkages in Aid for Trade. The GAP III is available here: join-2020-17-final_en.pdf (europa.eu) Finally, the EU Green Deal outlines how trade policy and development cooperation can support the ecological transition. Among other things, it states that the EU will develop a stronger 'green deal diplomacy' focused on convincing and supporting others to take on their share of promoting more sustainable development. By setting a credible example, and following-up with diplomacy, trade policy – including in the WTO, development support and other external policies, the EU can be an effective advocate. IT also states that the EU's trade policy facilitates trade and investment in green goods and services and promotes climate-friendly public procurement. The EU Green Deal is available here: The European Green Deal (europa.eu)

Q14**Yes**

Does your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy include sectoral objectives? Explanatory notes: For example, one sectoral focus of Korea's International Cooperation Agency development cooperation strategy is promoting the mainstreaming of science, technology and innovation in ODA projects by establishing its Science, Technology and Innovation Mid-Term Strategy (2021-2025). The goal to support inclusive growth based on science and technology by improving the innovation system of partner countries. Korea's strategy also focuses on education, health, governance, agriculture and rural development, energy, water, transportation, climate change and gender equality.

Page 13: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

Q15

If yes, please tick relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate if there is another development cooperation strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets. (Please tick relevant boxes.)

MSME sector development,**Services (general),****Communication services, including ICT,****Science, technology and innovation,****Cross-sectoral e-commerce and digital trade,**

Additional information on sectoral objectives included in your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy::

Which sectors and particular value chains should be prioritised need to be analysed and identified on a context-specific level. For that reason, sectoral objectives and targets are mostly found in the MIPs referred to in Question 8. However, the AfT strategy highlights certain areas to solve cross-cutting bottlenecks for developing countries to use trade as an instrument for sustainable development, namely the boxes ticked above, e.g. MSME sector development and supporting services including digitalisation. In addition, the Global Gateway, previously mentioned, highlights five areas for partnership: the digital sector, climate and energy, transport, health as well as education and research.

Page 14: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

Q16**Yes**

Does your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy include regional objectives? Explanatory notes: For example, the New Zealand's Aid Programme has a particular focus on the Pacific Islands region.

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Q17

If yes, please identify the relevant economic community(ies):(Please tick relevant boxes.)

Other (please specify),

Additional information on relevant economic communities::

While the EU AfT strategy does not target specific RECs, it is done through the relevant MIPs (and Regional Indicative Programmes, RIPs), as referred to in Question 8. At the same time, the EU AfT strategy emphasizes the importance of regional integration and regional value chains. Among other things, it aims 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). It also highlights that Value chains are a driver to help developing countries integrate better into regional and global trade. EU aid for trade will be focused more strategically in helping partner countries develop and move-up value chains.

Page 16: SECTION D: FINANCING TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Q18

Yes

Do you have priority areas in which you provide Aid-for-Trade support?

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Q19

If yes, please identify the priority areas of Aid for Trade in which you are actively providing support*. (Please tick relevant boxes.)--* If you would like to indicate climate change related priorities, please tick related boxes below (e.g. energy supply and generation infrastructure) and add relevant notes in the text box. Likewise for gender equality, please tick the relevant boxes (e.g. trade development) and add a note in the comment box.

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Trade education/training,

TRADE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)

,

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)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism,

Digital trade and e-commerce,

TRADE-RELATED ADJUSTMENT (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

,

OTHER TRADE-RELATED NEEDS,

Trade-related transport and storage infrastructure (e.g. port, dry port, inland container port, inland container depot, etc.)

,

Trade-related communications infrastructure,

Trade-related energy supply and generation infrastructure

,

TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate

support to undertake trade reform/infrastructure implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

Additional information on the priority areas of Aid for Trade in which you are actively providing support::

The different categories of AfT are all actively supported by EU AfT, although the extent of which and the particular priorities depends on the specific context. According to the 2022 EU AfT Progress Report, and as a proportion of total AfT, support to Trade Policy and Regulation accounted for around 3 percent, Trade-Related Infrastructure around 39 percent, and Building Productive Capacity around 58 percent. Trade Facilitation is a key area, accounting for around 29 percent of support under Trade Policy and Regulations. Sustainability aspects are integrated in a cross-cutting way – for instance, early half of EU AfT in 2020 was targeted to environmental objectives.

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Q20

Which financing instruments do you use to implement your trade and development cooperation (i.e. Aid-for-Trade) priorities? For example, the Swiss economic development cooperation strategy for 2021-24 promotes innovative private-sector initiatives and the mobilisation of private resources. In this regard, the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM) is a central instrument and focuses on four business lines: access to finance (including fintech, MSMEs and gender), infrastructure financing, integration in value chains and corporate social responsibility. For example, Development Alliance Korea (DAK) is Korea's first and largest innovation Public-Private Partnership platform joined by government, the private sector, civil society, and academia, with aim of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please provide information in the box below:

The EU uses a multitude of instruments to support AfT priorities, including grants, budget support, contributions to trust funds, budgetary guarantees, blending operations, and more.

A key financial instrument is the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) is part of the EU's investment framework for external action. It ensures world-wide coverage for blending, guarantees and other financial operations. It is included in the EU's long-term budget programme for external action: Global Europe – NDICI. It is a comprehensive instrument that includes guarantees, grants provided through 'blending' (a mix of EU grants with bank loans), technical assistance to help improve the quality of projects and the implementation of reforms, as well as other support tools to support the development of partner countries

The AfT strategy highlights the following two key actions relevant for making better use of different financing instruments:

- Reinforce operational linkages across all EU development cooperation instruments and tools, including country and regional programmes and European Development Finance Institutions operations, at both EU and Member States levels;
- Closely link EU budget support to investment climate reforms when mobilising private capital in developing countries through innovative risk-sharing mechanisms.

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Q21

Is there a form of aid, finance or other financial assistance for trade that you are seeking to expand? If so, is there an accompanying strategy to leverage this source of finance? For example, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is the newest U.S. government agency, launched in December 2019 with a mandate to partner with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world while advancing America's foreign policy goals abroad. The DFC offers loans, loan guarantees, equity investments, political risk insurance, technical assistance, and feasibility studies to drive significant amounts of private capital into challenging developing markets to address local needs.

Yes,

Additional information on forms of aid, finance, or other financial assistance for trade that you are seeking to expand, and on accompanying strategies to leverage finance::

Global Gateway seeks to mobilise up to €300 billion of investments for sustainable and high-quality projects, taking into account the needs of partner countries and ensuring lasting benefits for local communities. The Global Gateway will be delivered through a Team Europe approach, which brings together the EU and EU Member States with their financial and development institutions. It also seeks to mobilise the private sector in order to leverage investments for a transformational impact. This includes up to €135 billion worth of investments made possible by the EU and €145 billion of planned investment volumes by European financial and development finance institutions, complemented by grant financing. The EFSD+, mentioned in response to Question 20, will cover €53 billion in guarantee volume up until 2027 and is expected to leverage up to €232 billion of sustainable investments. Additional financing will be provided by grants to development finance institutions who will combine these, or 'blend them', with loans. Under the EFSD+, the Commission uses 'blending' in sectors, markets and operations where the guarantee does not address the relevant bottlenecks. These can be both public and private sector operations.

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Q22

What difficulties do you face in mobilizing financing to implement your Aid for Trade and development cooperation (i.e. Aid-for-Trade) objectives? (Please tick relevant boxes.)

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the difficulties you encounter in mobilizing financing to implement your Aid for Trade and development cooperation objectives::

With around 40 percent of global AfT coming from the EU with its Member States, funding at an aggregate level is significant while prioritisation and ensuring value for money is always a consideration, which depends on factors such as strong ownership by partner countries, coordination between development partners as well as between ministries, among other things. To mobilise additional funding, especially to crowd in the private sector, Global Gateway and the EFSD+ as referred to in response to Question 4 is our key instrument. However, effective mobilization of private sector capital and expertise depends, among other things, on being able to de-risk such investments, which in turn is dependent on developing "bankable" projects and financial systems.

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Q23

Are you providing an increasing share of Aid for Trade in the form of loans and a declining share of grants?

Other (please specify):

The upcoming 2023 EU AfT Progress Report breaks down the categories of loans vs grants in EU AfT. It illustrates that in 2021, the latest year for which we have data, 44 percent of EU AfT was in the form of grants and 56 percent in the form of loans). The report reviews data back until 2011, and it is found that while proportions have fluctuated from year to year, there is no overall trend in one direction or the other and the 2021 figures are on par with the average proportions. In absolute figures, aid-for-trade in the form of grants has increased significantly.

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Q24

If yes, does this situation present a challenge for your partner countries?

Respondent skipped this question

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Q25

Do you plan to stop providing Aid for Trade? Has a date been set to achieve this objective ? (e.g. a date to stop providing foreign aid?)

No

Page 24: SECTION E: ALIGNMENT OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

Q26

How well aligned is the Aid-for-Trade support you provide with the trade priorities of partner countries and regional organizations?

Mostly aligned,

Please specify if this is an official perspective or the personal opinion of the respondent::

The EU fully subscribes to the development effectiveness principles, referenced in the Busan Partnership Agreement for Effective Development Cooperation, reaffirmed at the Nairobi High Level Forum in 2016. We strive to strengthen the effectiveness of our development cooperation by: - defining our objectives based on our partner countries' own development priorities to; - supporting the policy processes through which these priorities are formulated, as well as the results frameworks established to manage and report on them; - strengthening and building on partner countries' own systems deliver on policy objectives and implement development programmes; and - providing more of our support through coordinated aid modalities, such as budget support. More specifically, The EU has defined its priority areas and specific objectives for the period 2021-2027 in Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) with each partner country and region. The NDICI regulation, mentioned in Question 4, requires us to define such priority areas through an inclusive process, achieved through dialogue with partner countries, local authorities and other key stakeholders. The specific action plans shall also be prepared in an inclusive manner; the trade priorities are always taken into consideration when develop specific actions.

Q27

What challenges do you encounter in aligning the Aid-for-Trade support you provide with the sectoral financing needs of partner countries and regional organizations? (Please tick relevant boxes.)

Difficulties associated with cross-sectoral approaches (e.g. e-commerce development)

,

Lack of donor coordination,

Lack of South-South partner coordination,

Limited knowledge of recipient (i.e. developing country) needs and economic situation

,

Conditions required by development partners to access support

,

Length of project/programme funding cycles,

Human capacity constraints to developing bankable projects

,

Lack of partner country ownership,

Weak institutional capacity (e.g. lack of coordination at domestic level)

,

Additional information on the challenges you encounter in aligning the Aid-for-Trade support you provide with the sectoral financing needs of partner countries and regional organizations::

The challenges are often context-specific, but all of the above mentioned factors are relevant in one or more instances.

Q28

Does your development cooperation strategy include a monitoring or results framework?

Yes, for the Aid-for-Trade strategy,

Additional information on whether your development cooperation strategy includes a monitoring or results framework::

First, the EU AfT strategy highlights as a priority area that existing means of analysing and showcasing the impact of EU aid for trade interventions will be improved, and reporting will be made more qualitative and results-driven with a reduced time-lag between aid for trade commitments and reporting of actions. On a macro-level, the EU monitors the implementation of the strategy through annual AfT progress reports. Second, more broadly, the NDICI Regulation referred to in response to Question 4 specifies a list of indicators to report on progress of the Instrument, which are in line with the SDGs indicators and shall be used together with data from evaluations and other existing results reporting, as a basis for assessing the extent to which the specific objectives of the Instrument have been achieved. How then are specific actions monitored? Since 2021, the European Commission is using OPSYS, an IT platform, to monitor EU-funded interventions outside the European Union and, simultaneously to report on results. The logical framework approach, includes the narration of a theory of change (an intervention logic) and takes the form of a Logical Framework Matrix (logframe). The latter is the key internal monitoring tool used for results monitoring in OPSYS. The logframe presents the results that should be generated by an intervention at different time horizons. Result levels (outputs, outcomes and impact) are accompanied by indicators to measure (contribution to) their achievement. There are core indicators, predefined good practice indicators, for the EU external actions. These are aligned with policy priorities, drawing on the SDGs among other frameworks. Examples of core indicators related to Aid for Trade include: Number of supported trade related policies, regulations or legislations developed/ revised/ implemented with the support of the EU-funded intervention Number of processes related to the removal of barriers to market access, investment and business which have been influenced Number of assisted enterprises that report an increase in their international trade flows Number of supported Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that report an increase in their international trade flows Proportion of companies that report facing non-tariff measures related obstacles to trade On the intervention level, the implementing partners who own the design of the logframes enjoy flexibility to use the indicators of their own monitoring systems (for as long as they are relevant to measure the results of the intervention). This is the case of the Team Europe Initiatives, regular type of initiatives and budget supports.

Q29

Do you align your monitoring and evaluations activities with the monitoring or results framework of partner countries?

Other (please specify),

Additional information on whether you align your monitoring and evaluation activities with the monitoring or results framework of partner countries::
 Priorities for EU actions are set in consultation with partner countries. While the use of information and indicators across European Union-funded interventions in partner countries is aimed to be standardized, in order to ensure quality-assured metrics and comparability, data is also collected from partner countries; monitoring systems. Budget support interventions rely mostly on partner countries; policy and monitoring frameworks. Chapter 7 of the GEF referred to in Question 28 describes how M&E could be working together with partners. In addition, the EU is committed to supporting transparent, country-led results frameworks as a common tool to assess performance based on a manageable number of indicators drawn from the development priorities of a particular developing country, and to minimise the use of additional frameworks and performance indicators that are not consistent with national development strategies. Although most partner countries have national results frameworks in place, the need to strengthen their results-based budgeting and M&E systems remains a challenge. EU support to national systems and capacities for measuring, monitoring and reporting on results delivery is a priority in this regard

Q30

Do you measure the impacts of the Aid-for-Trade support you provide?

Yes

Q31

If yes, where is Aid for Trade having a measurable impact in your opinion?(Please select relevant boxes.)

TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

,

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Trade education/training,

TRADE RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Trade-related transport and storage infrastructure (e.g. port, dry port, inland container port, inland container depot, etc.)

,

Trade-related communications infrastructure,

Trade-related energy supply and generation infrastructure

,

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)

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Business support services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism,

Digital trade and e-commerce,

TRADE RELATED ADJUSTMENT (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit

from liberalized trade)

,

OTHER TRADE-RELATED NEEDS,

Additional information where Aid for Trade is having a measurable impact::

The impact depends on a number of factors that are context-specific, related to the country's policy priorities and the enabling environment. General development effectiveness principles are evidently crucial – the EU has more of an impact in AfT where we work in coordination with other development partners, not least EU member states. Team Europe Initiatives ('TEIs') focus on identifying critical priorities that constrain development in a given country or region, where a coordinated and coherent effort by 'Team Europe' would ensure results with a transformative impact. Working with the private sector is also key, a fundamental component in the Global Gateway. Apart from thematic areas, modalities also matter but their relative effectiveness again depends on a number of factors. That being said, the aim of the Global Gateway is on meeting partner countries' infrastructure development needs, meaning combining investments in both hard and soft infrastructure (e.g. enhancement of roads and border crossings together with trade facilitation and investment climate reforms) which will also boost competitiveness and trade.

Q32

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme that you would like to highlight as an example of best practice?

Yes,

Additional information on Aid-for-Trade projects or programmes that you would like to highlight as examples of best practice::

Below, we present four initiatives: Investing in Young Businesses in Africa (IYBA); the West Africa Customs connectivity system (SIGMAT); and the AfCFTA e-tariff book and SWITCH-Asia. Firstly: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the Team Europe initiative 'Investing in Young Businesses in Africa' (TEI IYBA) in May 2021. It helps early-stage businesses and young entrepreneurs in Africa to launch and grow sustainable, strong and inclusive businesses, and create decent jobs in the process. It does so by: • extending financial and technical support to these businesses in their early stages • strengthening the organisations that support them • focusing in particular on women and young entrepreneurs. As an initiative, it encompasses programmes financed by the EU and by 11 EU Member States which together amount to €4.6 billion. It has launched nationally in Senegal, Togo, Nigeria, Kenya and Comoros. Cameroon and Benin will follow soon. The initiative allows us as Team Europe to deliver more together, by comprising the EU and 11 EU Member States, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Association of European Development Finance Institutions. It also allows us to try out new approaches. For instance, the IYBA SEED programme is strengthening the entire ecosystem of organisations that support entrepreneurship in 5 African countries. It's doing so over a longer time period and in a more holistic way than has been done before. Another new IYBA programme is IYBA WE4A. Together with GIZ, we're partnering with the Tony Elumelu Foundation and equity investment funds to provide women entrepreneurs with training, technical support, and clear opportunities to access finance at each stage in the growth of their businesses. In addition, IYBA Invest is a blended finance programme which will enable I&P, an impact investment fund, to invest in local funds; these will in turn invest up to €500,000 in promising early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs. Secondly: ECOWAS' interconnected System for the Management of Goods In Transit (SIGMAT), under the Trade Facilitation West Africa (TFWA) Programme, funded by the European Union, USAID, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is now operational in nine Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. This program to interconnect customs IT systems is an initiative of the ECOWAS Commission, with the aim of smoothing the flow of goods along the various road corridors in the region, by eliminating multiple checkpoints and load breaks at State borders. With the implementation

and road breaks at State borders. With the implementation of SIGMAT, the Customs Administrations of Member States will now work together to ensure that information on transit cargoes, once declared at an office of departure (the country of departure) and the itinerary specified, is shared simultaneously by electronic means with the customs offices of transit and the customs office of final destination of the goods (country of arrival), all along the corridor used. A meeting of Directors General of Customs, held in June 2023 resolutely committed themselves to the full operationalization of SIGMAT, putting an end to the outdated manual management of goods transit operations along the ECOWAS trade corridors. Thirdly: in June 2022 during the 9th Council of Ministers Meeting, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) secretariat launched two major tools deemed key in accelerating trading under the AfCFTA; the AfCFTA E-Tariff Book and the Rules of Origin Manual. Both were developed with the support of the World Customs Organization and the European Union under the EU-WCO HS and RoO Africa programmes. The E-Tariff Book is a milestone as it will facilitate the publication of information on rates of duty applied by AfCFTA State Parties under their Schedules of Tariff Concessions with several search functionalities, comparison of applicable rates between all state parties and option to download the results, hence making it a practical instrument for trading under the AfCFTA Agreement. The RoO Manual contributes to a uniform interpretation and application of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin in the State Parties, and hence, shall enable Customs officers and other stakeholders involved in the clearance of goods to understand the mechanisms of according the preferential tariff treatment to goods traded in the AfCFTA. The EU-WCO HS and RoO Africa programmes will further work with the AfCFTA secretariat to enhance the E-tariff Book by including key information of the AfCFTA RoO, conduct awareness raising campaigns and capacity building activities on RoO using the Manual, and support Customs administration to migrate to the latest version of the HS as well as implement advance rulings and national electronic tariff tools. Finally: SWITCH-Asia (Home | SWITCH-Asia) promotes a shift to an inclusive, low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy in Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific. It combines grants with policy support, to promote greener supply chains across these regions and Europe, by enhancing SME uptake of sustainable production and consumption (SCP) patterns. Launched in 2007, SWITCH-Asia has so far leveraged nearly €300 million in investments through 143 projects, supporting over 500 Asian and European non-for-profit partners, about 100 business membership organisations, and over 80.000 Asian micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. 33 on-going projects, with an average grant size of EUR 1.7 million, are spread across a wide range of themes --

incl. pollution avoidance/reduction, efficient & cleaner production & consumption practices in value chains like plastic, agri-food, textiles, tourism, construction, implementing diverse SCP approaches like labels, standards, material use/recovery, resource efficiency and green procurement. Indicatively, the recently completed project 'Promotion of supply and demand of Eco-Fair Agri-food processing products in Vietnam' (2020-2023) addressed sustainable supply chain management with a focus on green trade and facilitated the integration of MSMEs into supply chains. It supported sustainable consumption and consumer awareness on SCP, and built the capacity of eco-fair MSMEs, creating an enabling environment to strengthen the implementation of national SCP policies. Specifically, the project: (i) increased the production capacity and marketing of sustainable consumption opportunities, specifically eco-fair label products; (ii) Promoted effective outreach to large consumer groups (500,000) by raising awareness among consumers on eco-fair labels and the benefits of adopting sustainable consumption practices; (iii) established a sustainable E-platform and an eco-fair retailer network to promote and replicate eco-fair practices among producer MSMEs, consumers and civil society organisations in Vietnam, as well as in trade associations and other export organisations to reach EU importers; (iv) increased the capacity of eco-fair MSMEs to access finance; and (v) strengthened the implementation of national eco-fair policies in Vietnam.

Q33

Do you foresee a continued need to provide Aid-for-Trade financing ?

Yes, to address some specific thematic objectives (e.g. sustainable development, climate transition, etc.)

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Additional information on whether you foresee a continuing need to provide for Aid-for-Trade financing::

The integration of developing countries and in particular Least Developed Countries in to the world economy is not progressing as hoped or in line with the SDG targets. The global investment gap is significant; according to G20 estimates, the global infrastructure investment deficit will reach €13 trillion by 2040. Bridging the world's infrastructure gap and achieving the infrastructure-related SDGs in partner countries, while staying on track to limit climate change and environmental degradation will require an estimated investment of €1.3 trillion per year. The particular trade and development priorities can differ depending on the context, but recent years' global challenges show that Aid for Trade will remain relevant – for instance the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine with impacts on global food and energy insecurity, and the pressing need for climate change mitigation and adaptation all require considerable aid for trade financing.

Q34

If yes, please identify the categories of Aid-for-Trade support in which you foresee future needs. (Please select relevant boxes.)

TRADE POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Including training of trade officials, analysis of proposals and positions and their impact, support for stakeholders to articulate commercial interest and identify trade-offs, dispute issues, institutional and technical support to undertake trade reform/facilitate implementation of trade agreements and to adapt to and comply with rules and standards)

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Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Trade education/training,

TRADE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE (Including physical infrastructure)

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Transport and storage infrastructure (e.g. port, dry port, inland container port, inland container depot, etc.)

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Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

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)

,

Business support services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism,

Digital trade and e-commerce,

TRADE-RELATED ADJUSTMENT (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

,

OTHER TRADE RELATED NEEDS,

Additional information on the categories of Aid-for-Trade support in which you foresee future needs::

The particular priorities may differ depending on the context.

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Q35

Do you foresee future need for Aid for Trade to support the achievement of trade-related aspects of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda ?Explanatory notes: For example, the Government of Canada works with partners and stakeholders to advance the 2030 Agenda through concrete actions on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Yes,

Additional information on whether you foresee a future need for Aid for Trade to support the achievement of trade-related aspects of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda::

The formulation of the 2017 joint EU Aid for Trade strategy was underpinned by the 2030 Agenda. Among other things, it notes that if the EU is to be successful in contributing significantly to the achievement of the SDGs, it must focus more on catalysing private investment. It also sets out the need for promoting social and environmental sustainability along value chains through integrated and multistakeholder approaches, as well as to channel a greater proportion of EU Aid for Trade to Least Developed Countries, in order to help achieve the SDG target of doubling their share of global exports. These examples all remain relevant.

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Q36

If yes, please indicate which SDGs are referenced in your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy. (Please select relevant boxes.)

GOAL 1: No Poverty,

GOAL 4: Quality Education,

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth,

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure,

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality,

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production,

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal,

GOAL 5: Gender Equality,

Additional information on SDGs referenced in your development cooperation or Aid-for-Trade strategy::

Above, those SDG topics that are explicitly referred to in the joint EU Aid for Trade strategy are highlighted, albeit not always referencing the SDG as such.

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Q37

Do you foresee future needs for Aid-for-Trade to support the trade-related aspects of climate change ?

Yes,

Additional information on whether you anticipate future needs for Aid-for-Trade to support trade-related aspects of climate change::

Tackling climate and environmental-related challenges is this generation's defining task. The atmosphere is warming and the climate is changing with each passing year. One million of the eight million species on the planet are at risk of being lost. Forests and oceans are being polluted and destroyed. The European Green Deal is a response to these challenges. It is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. Trade policy and Aid for Trade are inherent parts of the European Green Deal, e.g. by integrating sustainability in trade agreements, facilitating trade in green goods and services, ensuring undistorted, fair trade and investment in raw materials needed for the green transition, helping to address harmful practices such as illegal logging, enhance regulatory cooperation and remove non-tariff barriers in the renewable energy sector. Aid for Trade and the Global Gateway are key areas for investments to support both climate change mitigation and resilience, necessities but also major economic opportunities in low- and middle-income countries.
