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Page 5: ABOUT YOU

**Q1**

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

OTHER (please specify):

UNCTAD

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**Q2**

About you

Name

**Nicole Lewis-Lettington**

Position

**Programme Coordination Officer**

Ministry/Institution

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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):

All the work programs under UNCTAD Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC) address trade priorities when supporting developing countries' formulation of sustainable development strategies.

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**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).

WTO accession

**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.

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**Q5**

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

**Yes,**

Additional information: please specify which of the priorities you selected are new and provide further information. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: In the face of the unprecedented situation, UNCTAD adjusted the work programme rapidly and prioritized technical assistance related to COVID-19 to respond effectively to the most urgent needs of developing countries, especially the vulnerable group of countries hit hard by the pandemic, and adopted online or hybrid modes in the delivery of advisory services and capacity-building activities, to mitigate the negative impact of travel restrictions on its operational activities as much as possible. the focus for the AfT in the coming year must be supporting economic recovery through trade Aid for trade remains of utmost importance. - Since last monitoring it became evident that trade is an essential part of the solution to fight a pandemic, while the trading system could not help smaller or poorer economies mitigate damages from trade disturbance (e.g. limited imports, no availability of transports for their exports) during the pandemic-induced trade disturbance. Data show that when the pandemic hit first Asia, Asia's exports of medical products were replaced by those from Europe and United States (UNCTAD GTU). Also, countries with less economic diversification have not recovered their trade even when others' picked up during 2021. - The AfT in 2022-2023 should have two major objectives: economic diversification through trade in goods and services; and increasing the availability and the flows of essential goods including vaccines. [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wpd311\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wpd311_en.pdf)

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**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).

Additional information on the top 5 drivers of change in your Aid-for-Trade priorities since 2019, including in relation to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on your economy.:

The focus for the AfT in the coming year must be supporting economic recovery through trade - Aid for trade remains of utmost importance. - Since last monitoring it became evident that trade is an essential part of the solution to fight a pandemic, while the trading system could not help smaller or poorer economies mitigate damages from trade disturbance (e.g. limited imports, no availability of transports for their exports) during the pandemic-induced trade disturbance. Data show that when the pandemic hit first Asia, Asia's exports of medical products were replaced by those from Europe and United States (UNCTAD GTU). Also, countries with less economic diversification have not recovered their trade even when others' picked up during 2021. - The AfT in 2022-2023 should have two major objectives: economic diversification through trade in goods and services; and increasing the availability and the flows of essential goods including vaccines. - UNCTAD supports transparency in trade. The Global Trade Helpdesk by ITC-UNCTAD-WTO provides trade data and trade intelligence. The informal WTO MSME group, mainly developing countries, supports this trade portal. - UNCTAD maps NTMs of African countries within its support to AfCFTA and also NTMs of Latin America (ALADI members), in ASEAN, and several European countries including the major markets of developing countries.

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**Q7**

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

**Same,**

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

UNCTAD technical cooperation should continue to assist developing countries and be adapted to the new opportunities and challenges in the fields of trade and development and interrelated issues. It should support countries in addressing the challenges exacerbated or revealed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience to future economic shocks, by building productive capacities, and support sustainable development. Aid for Trade has always played an important role for UNCTAD. The pandemic revealed that countries use non-tariff measures (e.g., export restrictions) frequently and that current transparency measures are not sufficient. UNCTAD observes and list ad hoc measures taken in connection to the pandemic.

**Q8****Yes**

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

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**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 focus for the AfT in the coming year must be supporting economic recovery through trade - Aid for trade remains of utmost importance. - Since last monitoring it became evident that trade is an essential part of the solution to fight a pandemic, while the trading system could not help smaller or poorer economies mitigate damages from trade disturbance (e.g. limited imports, no availability of transports for their exports) during the pandemic-induced trade disturbance. Data show that when the pandemic hit first Asia, Asia's exports of medical products were replaced by those from Europe and United States (UNCTAD GTU). Also, countries with less economic diversification have not recovered their trade even when others' picked up during 2021. - The AfT in 2022-2023 should have two major objectives: economic diversification through trade in goods and services; and increasing the availability and the flows of essential goods including vaccines. - UNCTAD supports transparency in trade. The Global Trade Helpdesk by ITC-UNCTAD-WTO provides trade data and trade intelligence. The informal WTO MSME group, mainly developing countries, supports this trade portal. - UNCTAD maps NTMs of African countries within its support to AfCFTA and also NTMs of Latin America (ALADI members), in ASEAN, and several European countries including the major markets of developing countries.

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**Q10****Respondent skipped this question**

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).

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**Q11**

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

Trade policies affect both the environment and development, even policies by other countries. UNCTAD's study on A European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism assesses the impact of EU policies on the cost of trade as well as CO2 emission of developing countries and other trade partners.

Further resources - policy documents:

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wpd311-add1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wpd311-add1_en.pdf)

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wpd311\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/wpd311_en.pdf)

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdb63d7\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdb63d7_en.pdf)

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2_en.pdf)

<https://unctad.org/projects>

## 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):

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing climate resilience and promoting sustainable development are indispensable to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Sustainable Development Goal 13. A more equitable and sustainable approach to development strategies and globalization is therefore needed. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides a framework for crucial decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation through nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies for coordinated collective action at the global level.

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2_en.pdf) In addition, the work program of DITC pays particular attention to the commodities sector (agriculture, mining), fisheries, industry, and services. Services, in particular, plays a key role in a country's product capacity building in all sectors. Increased efficiency in services is thus an essential requirement for enhancing a country's economic diversification.

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**Q13**

**Respondent skipped this question**

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).

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**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).

**Sustainable Production and Consumption (SDG 12),****Climate Action (SDG 13),**

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.:

Promote, from a trade and development perspective, extensive use of renewable and low-emission energy sources and technologies that generate a more diverse and sustainable energy mix and facilitate cooperation on technology and identification of finance in this field, in collaboration with other agencies, where appropriate; Support developing countries in identifying relevant trade and investment policies to contribute to the attainment of the climate and environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda, with due cooperation with relevant international organizations; [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2_en.pdf)

**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).:

- UNCTAD's work on the circular economy started in 2015 with a collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation on resource-circularity potentials in large economies like India and China. - Circularity is already part of many lines of work within UNCTAD, such as activities on tackling fossil fuel and fisheries subsidies. UNCTAD works on the circular economy by encouraging discussions and activities seeking to bring value out of waste streams, by encouraging discussions around collaborative economy sectors, by the examination of innovate business models and encouragement of consumer awareness and behavioural shifts. In partnership with other international organizations, UNCTAD's work on the circular economy at the national and multilateral level brings this important theme to the service of the international community.

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**Q16****Yes**

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

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**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.:  
Ministry of Trade generally as Focal Point.

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**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 Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) project facilitates research and related interventions aimed at reducing the environmental health and socio-economic impacts of the manufacturing sector in target countries. It also addresses plastic pollution, one of the most pressing challenges facing circular economy. Research and other interventions include: (i) Developing and testing technology-based solutions and cleaner production methods to reduce pollution generated by manufacturing activities; (ii) Identifying the most suitable policies and business models that could facilitate and encourage uptake across target areas; and (iii) Generating evidence and identifying solutions for reducing plastic pollution, which has reached critical levels in several countries across Africa and Asia and is now posing a serious threat to the health of the oceans worldwide.

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**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).

**Respondent skipped this question**

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**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).

**Respondent skipped this question**

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**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,**  
**Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services**  
,  
**Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,**  
**Gender inequality,**  
**High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**  
,  
**High trade costs,**  
**Lack of data to support decision-making,**  
**Lack of technology transfer (including know-how)**

**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)

Respondent skipped this question

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**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).: A circular economy offers opportunities to reuse and recycle materials and reduce pressure on strained ecosystems and the climate. In addition, the circular economy is an alternative economic framework which can play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.  
[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2_en.pdf)

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**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):

Creative economy

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**Q25**

**Yes**

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

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**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.:

The 15th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development took place between 3 and 7 October 2021, under the theme “From Inequality and Vulnerability to Prosperity for All”. The Conference saw member States forge and adopt a covenant-the Bridgetown Covenant -to address a number of priorities of utmost urgency to the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the digital divide. The Covenant, which sets the basis for UNCTAD’s work until its next Ministerial Conference, calls for strengthening the work on assisting developing countries to enhance their readiness to engage and integrate into the digital economy, thus contributing to the closing of the digital divide. For example, the Covenant in particular calls UNCTAD to “Support landlocked developing countries, most notably on ...digital connectivity”. In doing so, the Covenant reinforces UNCTAD’s mandate to work on enhancing development gains from the digital economy, which is carried out through the E-Commerce and Digital Economy (ECDE) Programme.

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/td541add2_en.pdf) “Connectivity is a big equalizer” – connectivity enhances participation in economic activities by people of all groups thereby inducing positive impact upon SDG1 (no poverty) and SDG10 (no inequality). In trade, connectivity has determined the survival of producers, exporters and importers.

**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 ECDE Programme has its five-year work plan (2019-2023), which sets out all activities and work areas, including cross-cutting actions (gender and governance) under the Programme, following UNCTAD’s mandate. ICT infrastructure and services, including digital connectivity, is one of the 7 policy areas identified under the eTrade for all initiative. Through eTrade Readiness Assessments, UNCTAD help developing countries especially LDCs to assess the opportunities and challenges faced in these areas and develop action plan for strategy to enhance the digital development.

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstictinf2021d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstictinf2021d2_en.pdf)

<https://etradeforall.org/about/policy-areas/>;

<https://unctad.org/topic/ecommerce-and-digital-economy/etrade-readiness-assessments-of-LDCs>

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).:

“Connectivity is a big equalizer” – connectivity enhances participation in economic activities by people of all groups thereby inducing positive impact upon SDG1 (no poverty) and SDG10 (no inequality). In trade, connectivity has determined the survival of producers, exporters and importers. The UNCTAD Creative Economy Program addresses the transformative impact of digitalization upon the creative sectors in developing countries. At UNCTAD15, the Creative Industries and Trade Digitalization Forum discussed how the creative sector could progress with digital transformation continues. International trends, technological advances and global processes play a key role in shaping the creative economy, as follows: - Digitalization offers both opportunities and new challenges for the creative sector. On the one hand, the internet has made it possible to distribute creative work online. On the other hand, digital platforms rarely generate substantial remuneration for content creators and capture a significant share of revenue generated. A global digital divide persists with repercussions on the creative economy’s ability to be truly inclusive. Moreover, the gains in social linkages and cohesion created by face-to-face cultural experiences or the act of creation itself, might be lost with digitalization. These challenges raise issues related to the historical imbalances and asymmetries in the global creative and tech economies and their current impacts, rebuilding of the creative sector after COVID-19, the future of work, e-commerce platforms as well as terms of trade, gaining access to global distribution networks, building digital skills and capacity, among others. On the impact of services upon trade and sustainable development, UNCTAD continues to examine the impact of connectivity upon improving financial inclusion of marginalized group, which would positively impact women’s economic empowerment.

**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,**

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

UNCTAD's upcoming study "Digitalization of services: What does it imply to trade and development?" discusses how connectivity can transform the modes of cross-border services supply. As consumers of e-healthcare and e-education, developing countries could benefit in their progress in meeting SDG 3 (Health) and SDG4 (Education). However, this could potentially "eradicate" domestic producers and delivery of such services. Through Services Policy Review, UNCTAD (DITC) supports developing countries examine services policy frameworks that would support countries' long-term objective of economic diversification and sustainable development in all three dimensions.

**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?

**Unsure,**

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).: Digitalization of services has significantly positive impact upon consumers of low-income countries IF they are effectively connected to internet. However, this fully opens the domestic services market to foreign services suppliers, the impact of which could be positive or negative, depending on a country's policy framework.

**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.:

Since the outbreak of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, UNCTAD – in collaboration with eTrade for all partners – has played a critical role in raising awareness on the opportunities emerging from the crisis through increasing the uptake of e-commerce and digital solutions. At the same time, UNCTAD has voiced concerns about the risk of rising digital inequalities, particularly in LDCs. The following publications by UNCTAD present more information on the impact of the pandemic on the uptake of the digital economy.

<https://unctad.org/news/coronavirus-reveals-need-bridge-digital-divide> [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstictinf2020d1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstictinf2020d1_en.pdf)

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstictinf2020d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstictinf2020d2_en.pdf)

<https://unctad.org/webflyer/covid-19-and-e-commerce-global-review>

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**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**

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**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,**

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

COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated some important limitations of today's digital connectivity environments: Those who are less connected have been less able to take advantage of ICTs' potential. Higher demand for connectivity has put greater pressure on communications networks and services. Increased demand has given greater urgency to measures intended to increase bandwidth and extend connectivity to underserved communities. [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstict2020d13\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/dtlstict2020d13_en_0.pdf) Digital gender divide - "Women shaping the digital economy"; E-trade for Women. - Digital payments issue - "Financial inclusion for development" - Lack of access to trade finance - UNCTAD Trade Finance under Covid19

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**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**

**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).

**Regional trade agreements (RTAs),**

**Multilateral trade negotiations,**

**(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)**

,

**(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)**

,

**Building productive capacity,**

**Agriculture,**

**Forestry,**

**Fishing,**

**Industry,**

**Mineral resources and mining,**

**Travel and tourism,**

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

Trade related regulations such as TBT are important to achieve environmental objectives and at the same time account for a significant share of trade costs. Important to have good regulations.

**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).

**Respondent skipped this question**

**Q36**

Respondent skipped this question

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).

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**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?

- The Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) project facilitates research and related interventions aimed at reducing the environmental health and socio-economic impacts of the manufacturing sector in target countries. It also addresses plastic pollution, one of the most pressing challenges facing circular economy. Research and other interventions include: (i) Developing and testing technology-based solutions and cleaner production methods to reduce pollution generated by manufacturing activities; (ii) Identifying the most suitable policies and business models that could facilitate and encourage uptake across target areas; and (iii) Generating evidence and identifying solutions for reducing plastic pollution, which has reached critical levels in several countries across Africa and Asia and is now posing a serious threat to the health of the oceans worldwide.
  - Together with UN ECA UNCTAD implements a project on Green Value Chains in Africa. The project strengthens intra-regional value chains for environmentally friendly products and identifies and addresses related non-tariff measures to facilitate trade.
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**Q38**

Yes

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?

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**Q39**

Respondent skipped this question

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

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**Q40**

Respondent skipped this question

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

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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 strategy(ies) policy(ies) or plan(s).:

UNCTAD, DITC has developed a large portfolio of capacity building activities devoted to women's economic empowerment which includes online courses on trade and gender targeting stakeholders from developing and least developed countries; country and regional studies on the impact of trade liberalization and regional integration on women; trainings targeting specific vulnerable groups, such as women cross-border traders.

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).

**Export 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).:

- [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc-misc-2021d1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc-misc-2021d1_en.pdf) - <https://unctad.org/project/informal-cross-border-trade-empowerment-women-economic-development-and-regional-integration> - [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2017d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2017d2_en.pdf) - [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcinf2019d1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcinf2019d1_en.pdf) - [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2019d3\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2019d3_en.pdf)

**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).:

Through the DITC country and regional studies, UNCTAD regularly analyze women's participation in the labour market and include policy recommendations Web links (examples): - [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2021d1\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2021d1_en.pdf) - [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2020d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2020d2_en.pdf) - <https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditc2020d4.pdf>

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**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):

YES, through surveys and interviews UNCTAD, DITC has administered surveys and interviews to women's cross border traders, Cross-border Trade Associations, and border authorities to assess the impact and usefulness of its capacity building activities especially during the covid-19 pandemic.

**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 care and domestic work,**

**Unpaid employment,**

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

UNCTAD/DITC analytical work confirms it.

**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.:  
Especially if Aid for Trade initiatives target MSMEs. Lack of transparency is not gender neutral. Women traders have different and often less access to information. The Global Trade Helpdesk by ITC-UNCTAD-WTO is a one-stop shop for trade data and trade intelligence in particular for SMEs.

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**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 is one of the core mandates of UNCTAD. Notably, the UNCTAD/DITC has run capacity building projects since 2010 when the Trade, Gender and Development programme was set up. They include online courses on trade and gender that up to now have reached around 1,500 stakeholders from 152 countries; country and regional studies which include concrete policy recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders; trainings to women small-scale and informal cross-border traders and representatives of Cross-border Trade Associations; national seminars on trade and gender.

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**Q48**

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

**Respondent skipped this question**

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**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

**Q50**

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

Yes

**Q51**

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

Yes

**Q52**

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

Yes

**Q53**

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

Yes

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**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).:

The rapid spread of digital technologies is creating many business opportunities for entrepreneurs across the globe. Yet, as the digital sector remains widely male-dominated; women still face obstacles to make the most of the digital transformation. Pre-existing gender inequalities such as gender bias, lower participation in decision-making processes, more limited digital skills, lack of trust, and unequal access to funding, make it more difficult for women in accessing digital technology, including digital connectivity. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has accelerated the digitalization process, has also exacerbated the need to address persistent bottlenecks and to give more prominent consideration to gender issues in the digital economy.

<https://etradeforall.org/et4women/>

**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**

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**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**

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**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

**Q58**

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

Women across countries and regions face many obstacles that hamper their capacity to fully benefit from international trade and more generally from their participation in the economy. Hurdles include time poverty; discriminatory legal rules and social norms; limited access to productive resources and technology; and inadequate opportunities for education, training and skill development.

Those shortcomings are also found in developing and least developed countries, but they are magnified by persistent and acute development challenges that include poverty, inadequate infrastructure, limited productive capacities, and a mostly low-skilled labour force.

A fruitful integration of women into the economy could greatly benefit from Aid for Trade Initiatives that target them in their different roles as producers, wage workers, traders and consumers.

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**Q59**

**Respondent skipped this question**

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

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