



Page 5: ABOUT YOU

Q1

BENIN

Respondent (Country or Customs Territory)

Q2

About you

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

Q3

Does your national 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 national development strategy, policy or plan (or other trade-related policy document).: The National Development Plan of Benin (PND: 2018 - 2025) plans to make agro-industry, services and tourism the engine of strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth within the framework of more effective national and local governance by focusing on the development of Human Capital and infrastructures. This vision of the Plan is declined in 03 important Pillars, namely: - the diversification of agricultural production with the support of the development of services; - agro-industrial transformation and increased development of services; - the export of knowledge through innovations and biotechnologies.

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

Q4

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

Connecting to value chains	1
Trade facilitation	3
Transport infrastructure (airport, roads, rail, port)	4
Women's economic empowerment (please specify in the box below: rural women, women-owned businesses, women-led businesses, female workers, etc.)	5
Other (please specify)	2
Additional information and weblink(s) to the relevant strategy(ies), polic(ies) or plan(s) in which your Aid- for-Trade priorities are included.	2. Network infrastructure (electricity, water, telecommunications, etc.) Refer to the Benin National Development Plan Document (PND: 2018 - 2025).

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

Q5

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

No,

Additional information: please specify which of the priorities you selected are new and provide further information. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: These priorities are reinforced in the new strategic programs for poverty reduction in the country.

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

Q6

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

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q7

Has Aid for Trade become more or less important to your government since 2019?

More,

Additional information on the reasons why Aid for Trade may have become more, less, or remained equally important to your government than in the past.:
Government with regard to the outline of its second Government Action Program (PAG 2: 2021 - 2026). It is a question of making the Beninese economy, an emerging economy displayed, open and competitive on a regional and international scale. Some fundamental axes of this Program can be broken down as follows: - Stimulate the industrial boom; - Build modern transport and logistics infrastructure to promote development; - Make Benin a regional agricultural power; - Position Benin as a major tourist destination on the continent and in the world; - Restructure the education system by prioritizing professional and technical branches and training of excellence; - Achieve energy autonomy; - Promote local development and make our municipalities pleasant living spaces.

Q8

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

Yes,

Additional information on how changes in your Aid-for-Trade priorities may have been reflected in your dialogue with development partners.:
The dialogue framework between the Government and the Development Partners which allows both parties to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the Growth Program for Sustainable Development (PC2D which operationalizes the PND) offers favorable moments for the Government to discuss its Aid for Trade priorities. Similarly, the evaluation of the Trade Program (based on an inclusive process of Mainstreaming Trade in the various sectoral and national strategies of the country) resulting from the Document of the Diagnostic Study on the Integration of Trade (DTIS) allows different stakeholders to decide on the country's Aid for Trade priorities.

Q9

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

Yes,

Additional information on the specific national strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).:
The current Government Action Program (PAG 2 : 2021 - 2026) took into account, even beyond COVID 19, any possible exogenous shocks on the evolution of the country's macro - economic data. (See website: www.gouv.bj)

Q10

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

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

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

Q11

Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to Aid for Trade in your country.

- National Development Plan of Benin;
- National Trade Development Policy;
- Government Action Program (PAG 2: 2021 - 2026);
- The various national sectoral strategies (Agricultural - Digital - Tourism - Energy - Transport, Environment, etc.)

Page 15: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q12

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

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your national policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: The environmental dimension of development is set out in all the country's national and sectoral strategy documents with regard to the consideration of the various objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Page 16: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q13

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

National development strategy, policy or plan,

National trade development strategy, policy or plan,

Other (please specify),

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

National Aid for Trade strategy, policy or plan

Page 17: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q14

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

Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7),

Sustainable Production and Consumption (SDG 12),

Climate Action (SDG 13),

Life Below Water (SDG 14),

Life on Land (SDG 15),

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 national development strategy, policy or plan.:

These objectives are specifically mentioned in the Strategic Objectives 2 of Benin's PND, namely: to sustainably increase the productivity and competitiveness of the Beninese economy. This involves: - accelerating the structural transformation of the economy; - increase total factor productivity; - strengthen the integration of sectors, in particular agriculture, agro-industry and value chains; - develop rural infrastructure; - ensure more appropriate financing of the economy.

Q15

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

Yes,

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

The expected effects of the actions of this strategic axis relate, among other things, to: - the diversification and expansion of the productive bases of the Beninese economy; - increase in the productivity of production factors; - the effectiveness of the integration of agriculture and agro-industry for the promotion of value chains; - the creation of modern and reliable infrastructures for economic exchanges and access to markets.... It is also worth mentioning the implementation in Benin of the electronic payment platform (PKI: Payment Key Identified).

Page 18: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q16

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

Yes,

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

Page 19: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q17

Does your government have a national committee (or has coordination or dialogues across ministries and agencies) on sustainable development that includes the Ministry of Trade?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 20: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q18

If yes, does that national committee address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the national committee addresses the environmental dimension of sustainable development.:

It should be noted that a National Sustainable Development Committee is considering setting up. However, the environmental dimension of sustainable development is taken into account in the National Development Plan (NDP) of the Country and retraced in the past and ongoing Government Action Program. This dimension is taken into account in strategic objective 3 of the NDP, namely: to ensure the sustainable management of the living environment, the environment and the emergence of regional development poles. The priority is to: (i) guarantee better management of the environment and climate change, (ii) contribute to the attractiveness and competitiveness of human settlements.

Page 21: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q19

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

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Industry,

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

See Documents cited above (PND - PAG 2).

Q20

Please identify the sector(s) of your economy that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development. (You may tick more than 1 box).

Forestry,

Mining,

Industry

Q21

In your view, what challenges constitute the main obstacles to the transition towards sustainable development in your country?(You may tick more than 1 box).

- Access to finance,**
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,**
- Existing transport infrastructure,**
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**
- ,**
- Lack of data to support decision-making,**
- Lack of human resource capability,**
- Limited economic and export diversification,**
- Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,**
- Social pressures (poverty, population growth),**
- 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 in your country? (You may tick more than 1 box)

- Access to finance,**
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,**
- Existing transport infrastructure,**
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector**
- ,**
- Lack of data to support decision-making,**
- Limited agricultural processing capacity,**
- Limited economic and export diversification,**
- Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity**

Page 22: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q23

Do you have a circular economy strategy, policy, plan?

- Yes,**
- Additional information on your circular economy strategy, policy, plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):
Refers to page 121 of the Benin National Development Plan (PND: 2018 - 2025) and the Integrated Report on the State of the Environment in Benin.

Page 23: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q24

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

- Agriculture,**
- Forestry,**
- Industry,**
- Additional information on the economic sectors covered by the circular economy strategy, policy, or plan. (Please provide weblinks as applicable):
This is the medical and parapharmaceutical sector.

Q25

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

Yes,

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

For certain sectors such as agriculture, the commercial objectives are declined with regard to the development and promotion of Value Chains as well as access to the markets of agricultural products. As for the other sectors, efforts remain to be made.

Page 24: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q26

Is digital connectivity reflected as a priority in your national sustainable development strategy(ies), policy(ies), or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how digital connectivity is reflected in your national sustainable development strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s).:

This priority is outlined in the various Government Action Programs. Specifically, it is a question of accelerating massive investments for the development of quality digital infrastructures and services.

Q27

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

Yes,

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

National Digital Security Strategy Sector Policy Statement.

Q28

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

Agriculture,

Industry,

Services

Q29

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

Digital contents,

E-civil service,

E-commerce,

E-government,

E-healthcare,

E-learning,

E-logistics,

Real-time navigation,

Smart energy grids,

Smart work,

Telepresence,

Transport information systems

Q30

No

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?

Q31

Yes

Do you agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerator for the move to digital economy in your country ?

Q32

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

Digital gender divide,

Digital payments issues,

Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity

,

National e-commerce development strategy needs to be developed/updated

,

Poor access to internet services,

Poor digital skills and IT literacy

Page 25: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q33

Looking ahead, in which sectors do you think future Aid-for-Trade support to your country 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).

- Trade policy and administrative management,**
- Regional trade agreements (RTAs),**
- Multilateral trade negotiations,**
- Trade education/training,**
- Transport and storage infrastructure,**
- Energy supply and generation infrastructure,**
- Business and other services,**
- Building productive capacity,**
- Agriculture,**
- Forestry,**
- Industry**

Q35

Which donor(s) are the most important for Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development in your country? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Belgium,
Canada,
European Union,
Finland,
France,
Germany,
Japan,
Luxembourg,
The Netherlands,
Switzerland,
United Kingdom,
United States,
Kuwait (KFAED),
African Development Bank (AfDB),
Arab Fund (AFESD),
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
,
Climate Investment Funds (CIF),
Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF),
Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO),
Global Environment Facility (GEF),
Inter-America Development Bank (IDB),
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
,
International Monetary Fund (IMF),
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB),
International Trade Centre (ITC),
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB),
OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID),
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),
World Bank

Q36

Which South-South partner(s) are the most important source of Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development?(You may tick more than 1 box).

China,
Kuwait,
South Korea*,
Turkey,
Brazil,
India,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
South Africa,
Qatar,
United Arab Emirates

Q37

Have you received Aid-for-Trade financing as part of triangular co-operation projects?

Yes

Q38

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?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 27: SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Q39

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

Yes

Q40

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

Yes,
Additional information on the Aid-for-Trade projects which combine the twin objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmental environmentally sustainable development. Please indicate the number of projects, the sector concerned (agriculture, fisheries, sustainable tourism, circular economy, etc.). (Please include weblinks as applicable).:
We can cite two CIR Projects in Benin, namely: - Support Project for the Development of the Shea Value Chain for the Promotion of Women's Entrepreneurship in Benin; - Regional Support Program for the Inclusive Commercial Development of the Shea Sector in West Africa (Benin – Burkina – Mali – Togo)

Q41

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

It is imperative to continue and strengthen the interventions of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (CIR) Program in order to pursue dynamic analyzes of obstacles to trade in order to propose and offer the appropriate tools for guiding policies and measures in favor of of Inclusive Trade in Africa at the service of Sustainable Development.

Page 29: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q42

Is women's economic empowerment included as an objective in any of your national strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is included as an objective in your national policy documents.:

This priority for the Government is transcribed in Strategic Objective 1 of Benin's PND (2018 - 2025), namely: to develop healthy, competent and competitive human capital. One of the important effects of this objective is to reduce social and gender inequalities and above all to promote and support the socio-economic and political role of women.

Page 30: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q43

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

National development strategy, policy or plan,

National trade development 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).:

Confers: - The National Development Plan of Benin (PND 2018 - 2025) - The National Trade Development Policy (PNDC) - The Government Action Programs (PAG 1 and 2).

Q44

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).:

Referring to the national guide for the development of different policies and strategies, gender must be systematically taken into account in these documents.

Page 31: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q45

Does your government collect 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 collects. (Please include weblinks as applicable):

This evaluation is now carried out systematically to support the debates between the Government, the Social Partners and the Development Partners whenever the need arises.

Q46

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

Difficulties accessing financial services,

Difficult working conditions,

Informal employment,

Seasonal employment,

Smaller sized business,

Time and mobility constraints,

Unpaid care and domestic work

Q47

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.:

It is important to note that to encourage Inclusive Trade in African Countries, it was not enough to target vulnerable groups. There is also an urgent need to act on the fundamental factors so that women, men and young people can benefit from entrepreneurial activity and the impact of trade on their communities. In this regard, it is important that Aid for Trade accompanies and supports investments in productive capacities such as logistics infrastructure, finance, energy, digital, skills, regulatory policies and laws as well as human capital.

Page 32: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q48

Have you requested Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment in your country 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.:

By way of example, we can cite the Projects financed under the aegis of the CIR. These are: - Benin's Productive and Commercial Capacity Building Project (PRCPC). - Shea Value Chain Development Support Project for the Promotion of Female Entrepreneurship in Benin. - Regional Support Program for the Inclusive Commercial Development of the Shea Sector in West Africa (Béni n-Burkina-Mali-Togo)

Page 33: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q49

If yes, please provide further information on the donors, South-South or triangular cooperation partners that have supported your Aid-for-Trade programmes on women's economic empowerment.

Number of total projects implemented in the period 2015-2020	Under the CIR, 03 projects.
Duration in years (1, 2 or more than 3)	03 to 05
Percentage of projects that included women's economic empowerment as their sole/main objective (please include the % sign in your response)	33%
Percentage of projects that also included other objectives (please specify which in the box below and include the % sign in your response)	67%

Page 34: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q50

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 Access to trade related infrastructure,
Capacity-strengthening initiatives,
Facilitating access to digital technologies and e-commerce platforms
 ,
Facilitating access to trade finance,
Facilitating women's traders' inclusion in Global Value Chains (GVC)
 ,
Facilitating women traders' inclusion in regional trade.
 ,
Supporting women's entrepreneurship,
Supporting women-owned/led MSMEs to export

Q51

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

Yes

Q52

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

Yes,
 Additional information on how Aid for Trade helps to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment, including the reasons as to why or why not.:
 Through EIF Catalytic Funding.

Q53

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

Yes,

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

All Projects funded by Development Partners, including those of the CIR, are built on a dynamic and efficient monitoring and evaluation framework for results.

Q54

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

Yes,

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

Effectively, the support obtained from Aid for Trade inevitably derives, with regard to the principles of Aid effectiveness contained in the Paris Declaration, their sources from the country's priorities contained in the country's National Development Plan. The observation that has been made is that these financial resources are insufficient and do not allow the objectives set to be achieved.

Page 35: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q55

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies in your country?

Yes**Q56**

Please identify the top 5 barriers that prevent women from accessing digital technology in your country:(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),

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

Page 36: SECTION 3: NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Q57

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,****Services**

Q58

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 facilitation,
Trade education/training,
Transport and storage infrastructure,
Communications infrastructure,
Energy supply and generation infrastructure,
Business and other services,
Banking and financial services,
Building productive capacity,
Agriculture,
Fishing

Q59

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

Our reflection here will focus on some fundamental aspects that Aid for Trade should support to help countries strengthen women's economic empowerment.

In all modesty, and to meet the expectations of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, it is important that to encourage Inclusive Trade in the service of Sustainable Development in Africa in particular, it is necessary to develop adequate infrastructure and logistics, strengthen productive capacities and trade, building smart partnerships linked to innovation and facilitating investment and trade.

Page 37: END OF SURVEY

Q60

Respondent skipped this question

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