2022 Aid for Trade Partner Country Questionnaire



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Q1	EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Respondent (Country or Customs Territory)	
Q2	
About you	
Name	DI ESTEFANO MBA OBONO
Position	DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES COMMERCIAL
Ministry	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
Email Address	diesmobono@gmail.com
Phone Number	+240222010685

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 Equatorial Guinea National Development Strategy 2035 emphasizes the country's integration into the world economy, where trade is considered the engine to achieve such integration. The new National Development Strategy 2035 whose strategic axes are designed by sectors and subsectors, where all sectors are being oriented to trade, in order to achieve a diversification of the sources of economic growth so longed for by the Country. The Diagnostic Study on Trade Integration (EDIC) Equatorial Guinea is also a key document for the Country, whose horizontal recommendations of its action matrix guide a lot on the development of trade, and many of them are being implemented by the interested parties. The agricultural and fishing sector are being a priority in the strategy of diversification of exports of Equatorial Guinea, among others.

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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).

Adjustment costs	1
Export diversification	3
Trade facilitation	5
WTO accession	4
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 - Industrialization 1. The EDIC Equatorial Guinea 2. National Plan for Sustainable Development Equatorial Guinea 2035 3. Five-Year Plan 2020-2025 4. The Economic Diversification Strategy 5. The National Program for Food Security (PNSA) 2012, but constantly updated 6. among others. N.B: Many of the areas mentioned above constitute priorities for Equatorial Guinea in the current context. Choosing these five does not imply that they are the only ones, simply because that is what the online survey allows. There are other priorities such as: 1) Economic empowerment of women (please specify in the box below: rural women, women-owned businesses, women-led businesses, women workers), 2) Connection to value chains, 3) Economic empowerment of young people, 4) Regional integration, 5) International competitiveness, 6) Development of services, etc.

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# Q5

Yes

Respondent skipped this question

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

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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).

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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 .: Mainly in the Ministry of Commerce, where, since 2019, an Aid for Trade project of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (MIM), category 1: Institutional Support for Trade Development in GE, has been implemented at the national level, the need has been verified, importance and the results that are being obtained. Thanks to the MIM, the role of trade in an economy is being achieved and better understood; the EDIC and its recommendations, for example, the technical assistance provided by the MIM Coordination to both the private and public sectors. Moreover, with the financing problems that the country is going through, the MIM has been key in supporting certain areas of action that perhaps the government could not have responded in a timely manner.

### **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.:

For example, during the celebration of the Third National Economic Conference in 2019, in which the New National Development Strategy 2035 was adopted, subsequent to the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) 2020, all development partners were part integrates technical work. This is the case of the World Bank, a group with which the Ministry of Commerce prepared the EDIC and which supported the consideration of the EDIC recommendations matrix to integrate them into the new strategy.

# Q9

Unsure

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

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# 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). Respondent skipped this question

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

- 1. Institutional Support Project for Trade Development in Equatorial Guinea of the Enhanced Integrated Framework.
- 2. The GE EDIC
- 3. Diagnostic Study for the Improvement of the Business Climate in Equatorial Guinea 4.

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### 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).: First of all, there is a Regulatory Law for the Protection of the Environment in the country. Equatorial Guinea is also part of the Global Agreement on Climate Change. In the same way, the current National Strategy for Sustainable Development includes an entire axis on environmental sustainability, as well as other environmental policies that are being carried out by the government.

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Q13	National development strategy, policy or plan,
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 environmentally sustainable economy strategy (or green growth), policy or plan
	,
	National environmentally sustainable growth strategy, policy or plan
	3
	National strategy, policy or plan for circular economy/sustainable consumption and production patterns

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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 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.:

Axis IV of the 2035 National Plan speaks explicitly and exclusively of environmental sustainability. The design and conception of this strategic axis includes all the objectives related to the environment mentioned above.

### 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).:

Axis III of the GE 2035 Agenda broadly explains the commercial objectives of Equatorial Guinea in the face of sustainable development. In the same way, the sectoral plans and studies reflect well the commercial objectives of the Country in the achievement of the objectives of sustainable development (The EDIC, the category 1 project of the MIM-GE: Institutional Support for the Development of Commerce in GE as well like other sectoral plans), all of them are born from the vision and definition in the overall strategy.

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#### Q16

Yes

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

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# Q17

Respondent skipped this question

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?

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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.:

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development or Equatorial Guinea Agenda 2035, is the basis for all policies and sectoral actions that may occur. Therefore, the national committees are not exempt from considering this dimension in their tasks, moreover, they are multisectoral committees in which technicians from the Department of the Environment and other interest groups form part.

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### 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,

Mining,

Industry,

#### Services,

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

The general Strategic Plan of our country, as well as the sectoral ones, clearly define the priority sectors for economic diversification and sustainable development. For example, the Equatorial Guinea EDIC integrates petrochemicals as a sector with strong potential for economic diversification. Tourism is also discussed.

#### 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).

#### Mining,

Industry,

#### Services,

Additional information on the sector(s) that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development.:

For example, to develop the mining industry, strong investments are needed, mainly from the government, and considering the current economic-financial reality of the country, it is proving to be a challenge for the country to develop this industry despite its potential. Industrialization in general, which is so transversal (regulations, standards, certifications, environmental care, etc.) constitute important challenges.

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,

Business climate,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Lack of technology transfer (including know-how),

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

We can add the regulatory framework, the lack of a sustained business culture.

#### 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,

Business climate,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

High trade costs,

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity

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#### 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).: Equatorial Guinea has objectives for the circular economy. In fact, in September 2021, the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) and the Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean ibe (CECLAC) organized the first regional dialogue to strengthen cooperation around their common objectives on the subject. Similarly, development partners like UNDP and others are focusing their projects in the context of the circular economy.

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<b>Q24</b> If yes, which economic sectors does the circular economy strategy, policy, or plan cover?(You may tick more than 1 box).	Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Industry, Services
<b>Q25</b> 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).: In the case of Equatorial Guinea, the country has one of the best digital connectivity infrastructures in Central Africa, in fact its plan is to extend or expand its commercial relations at the level of the CEMAC zone, even with South America commercial relations are being advocated regarding digital connectivity.

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#### 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) .: The cable system has been designed to be a fast and direct path, using industry leading 100G transmission technology and to offer a design capacity of 32 Tbps, through a 4-fiber pair configuration. CEIBA 1: CEIBA-1 is the name given to the submarine cable infrastructure deployed between the cities of Malabo and Bata with a total length of 287 km. The system is equipped with 4 fiber optic pairs through which it can transmit a multicircuit capacity of 10 Gb/s up to a capacity greater than 1TB/s. CEIBA 2: In operation since March 2017, it connects the cities of Malabo and Bata in Equatorial Guinea with Cameroon. The Ceiba-2 submarine cable is a state-of-the-art cable that fulfills two objectives: it protects the link between Bata and Malabo, currently operated through the Ceiba-1 submarine cable, and also acts as a second international connection point for Equatorial Guinea.

## Q27

Yes

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

<b>Q28</b> In which sectors could digital connectivity best support the transition to sustainable development in your country?(You may tick more than 1 box).	Fisheries, 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-government, E-learning, E-logistics, Home energy management systems, Innovation and technology for gender equality, Real-time navigation
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
Q31 Do you agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerator for the move to digital economy in your country ?	Yes, Additional information on the impact of the pandemic on the uptake of the digital economy.: The restrictions adopted by governments to contain the pandemic have forced many to consider that the world is already becoming digital, and Equatorial Guinea has not been exempt. We realize that the pandemic has given rise to the heyday of the digital economy and surely there is no turning back.
Q32 In which areas has the COVID-19 pandemic exposed shortcomings in national digital connectivity?(You may tick more than one box).	Digital payments issues, Insufficient or uneven internet coverage, Poor access to internet services, Poor digital skills and IT literacy, Slow, expensive or unreliable internet services, Trade facilitation and logistics issues

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

#### Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Industry,

#### Services,

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

The sectors mentioned above are included in the PND as strategic and the economic diversification strategy is based on them.

### Q34

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

Trade facilitation,

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Trade education/training,

(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)

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining

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#### 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).

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF),

Unsure

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).

# Q37

Unsure

Unsure

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

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?

Project Title:Promotion of Sustainable and Ecological Agriculture in Equatorial Guinea: Reinforcement of Production and Marketing Capacities: Promotion of Sustainable and Ecological Agriculture in Equatorial Guinea

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises

Thanks to the application and promotion of agroecological concepts for the development of productions, sustainable management of natural resources, and introduction of post-harvest innovations, the present category 2 project of the Improved Integrated Framework (MIM), has the purpose of reinforcing the capacity productive and commercial sector of Equatorial Guinea, through the introduction of innovations and the transfer of technologies in the production and commercialization systems of selected speculations (animal and vegetable), promoting the generation of secure income through strengthened agricultural value chains and an inclusive and participatory approach to learning.

In both regions of the country, the project would directly benefit more than 300 agro-entrepreneurs divided into 10 women's, youth and mixed groups of 30 people, and 25 extension technicians, government officials.

The project is aligned with all the programmatic/political instruments of the country, mainly in its new Strategic Plan 2035, the United Nations System, the MIM program, and the UNDP

1.1 Title of the project Reinforcement of Production and Marketing Capacities: Promotion of Sustainable and Ecological Agriculture in Equatorial Guinea

1.2 Project category Category 2

1.3 Entity beneficiary of the financing Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises

1.4 Implementing entity (if different from the above) UNDP and the Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises

1.5 Other Entities Associated in Implementation Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment

1.6 Duration of the project 36 months (3 years)

1.6 Total costs of the project 3,074,866 US\$

1.7 Expected financing from the MIM 1,641,194 US \$

1.8 Other sources of financing

(Government, Private Sector or Development Partners) N/A

1.9 Mobilization activities 1,433,672 US\$

1.10 Project objective Strengthen capacities to generate income, decent and secure jobs, mainly for women and youth, through sustainable production, processing, and marketing activities.

1.11 Expected results Strengthening of production capacities (animal and plant) through climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices. feasible, introduction of post-harvest innovations, improvement of the agricultural marketing chains involved and promotion of cooperative work.

Based on the learning-by-doing approach through climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices, by 2023, the production capacities of women and youth groups have been strengthened thanks/through the introduction of innovations including post-harvest processes, improving supply chains agricultural marketing involved and promoting cooperative work.

For more information about the project, contact Mr. Expedito-Genaro Osâ, Coordinator of the MIM-GE project at: emailegeosa@hotmail.fr

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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,

Additional information on whether you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development while also supporting progress on gender equality /women empowerment. You may also provide information on your intention to draft such policies in the future. (Please include weblinks as applicable).: The Equatorial Guinea 2035 Agenda includes these issues: empowerment of women, the environmental dimension are very relevant in current national policies.

#### 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).: 1. The MIM 2. The Ministry of Social Affairs carries out such projects 3. Development partners (UNDP, FAO and

# others)

Yes

#### Q41

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

In the sustainability of value chains in the national strategic sectors.

#### 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)?

#### 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 export strategy, policy or plan,

National gender equality strategy, policy or plan,

Women's economic empowerment's strategy, policy or plan

Aid-for-Trade strategy, policy or plan

Yes

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)?

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

Q45	Unsure
Does your government collect data on women's economic empowerment in relation to trade and development?	
Q46	Difficulties accessing financial services,
In your view, what trade and development constraints do women face in your country?(You may tick more than one box).	Difficulties in meeting regulatory and procedural requirements ,
	Lack of access to digital services,
	Informal employment,
	Poor access to information,
	Poor access to professional bodies (e.g., chambers of commerce)
	3
	Restricted access to markets,
	Time and mobility constraints,
	Additional information on the trade and development constrains faced by women in your country.:
	<ol> <li>High costs of business legislation that discourage 2.</li> <li>Absence of points of promotion of local products</li> </ol>
Q47	Yes,
Can Aid for Trade play a role in addressing these constraints?	Additional information on the role that Aid for Trade can play in addressing these constraints.: Trade is a fairly horizontal issue, that is, it affects other sectors and can develop them directly and indirectly.
	Technical assistance in all its dimensions is crucial

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

#### Q48

Yes

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

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Respondent skipped this question

#### 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.

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Q50	Respondent skipped this question
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).	
Q51	Respondent skipped this question
Have public-private partnerships been used to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment?	
Q52	Respondent skipped this question
Does Aid for Trade help to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment?	
Q53	Respondent skipped this question
Are your Aid-for-Trade projects involving women's economic empowerment underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation/ results framework?	
Q54	Respondent skipped this question
Does the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment that you receive align with your trade priorities and objectives?	
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Q55	Respondent skipped this question
Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies in your country?	
Q56	Respondent skipped this question

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

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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,
Industry

### 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,

(b) Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, ecommerce, 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)

Transport and storage infrastructure,

Communications infrastructure,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

(e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

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

Aid for Trade is a program that is showing quite evident results around the world, through its financial and technical assistance. In our particular case, sectors such as agriculture, fishing and others, where by culture and tradition women have been developing their commercial activities and have economic independence but in a not very organized or modernized way. Therefore, with the Aid for Trade program, it is possible to create capacities for them, modernizing and organizing their activities in these sectors, thanks to the financial assistance of the Aid.

One of the difficulties that our country faces, as well as others, is the capacity d to finance projects in various strategic sectors that are easy for women to develop.

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#### Q60

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

1) Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of SMEs 2) Ministry of Agriculture, 3) Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality