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Q1 **ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**
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 **Yes**
Does your national development strategy, policy or plan include trade priorities (i.e., Aid-for-Trade priorities)?

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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).

Building productive capacity	1
Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy	2
Regional integration	3
Services development	5
Trade facilitation	4
Additional information and weblink(s) to the relevant strategy(ies), polic(ies) or plan(s) in which your Aid- for-Trade priorities are included.	Transport infrastructure (airport,roads,ports) was adjusted in light of the commissioning of the new airport (Argyle International Airport). Also, the Government has secured funding for the development of a new seaport.

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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).:
 Building and productive capacity
 Services development
 Environmental sustainable green growth

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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).

2030 Sustainable Development Goals,
Environmental sustainability (or green) growth, including circular economy
 ,
Economic and trade impact of COVID-19 pandemic,
E-commerce development (and digital transformation)
 ,
Expansion of domestic services sectors and/or trade in services

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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.:
Aid for trade has become more important since 2019 in light of the negative impacts on the economy as a result of the unprecedented challenges that St Vincent and the Grenadines faces as a Small Island Developing State. SVG has not only been affected by COVID-19 pandemic but also the eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano and Hurricane in 2021. These challenges have caused economic hardships. There is need for the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure, the rebuilding of the production capacity, the modernization of the services sectors and the use of ICT infrastructure to enhance competitiveness and facilitate trade. With SVG being heavily dependent on services, particularly tourism, both for income and jobs, the impact of COVID-19 has dealt a heavy blow to its economic situation. From an employment standpoint services similarly dominate, employing 70% of the labour force. In travel and tourism alone, the income contribution from these sectors has decreased from 41.7% of GDP to 16.4% of GDP and from 44.8% of total employment to 38.2% of total employment, many of whom operate in the informal sector.

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 government has requested support from development partners including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

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).: As highlighted in the Budget address for 2022 of the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines, the immediate priorities for economic recovery post COVID 19 are: 1. To keep Vincentians safe from COVID-19; 2. To respond to the multifaceted social and infrastructural toll of La Soufrière's eruptions; 3. To pursue fresh initiatives in accelerating our economic recovery; and to transform our country by creatively tackling foundational challenges, in particular climate vulnerability, inequality and infrastructure deficits; Accordingly, emphasis will be place on innovative approaches to digital transformation, climate change, resilience-building and the blue economy. Heavy investment will be made in the construction sector, as both an economic stimulus and as a means to address existing deficits. These fresh initiatives are forecast to significantly enhance recovery and spur economic growth.

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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).

Agricultural sector, food production and supply chain support

,

Building productive capacity,

Digital connectivity and transformation,

Job creation,

MSME support,

Poverty reduction objectives,

Other (please specify),

Additional information on your strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic.:

1. Innovative approaches to digital transformation. 2. Climate change, resilience-building and the blue economy.

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Q11

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

Respondent skipped this question

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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).: Goal 4 of the National economic and social development plan. "Improving the Physical Infrastructure, Preserving the environment and Building resilience to Climate Change"

<http://finance.gov.vc/finance/images/PDF/nesdppart1.pdf>

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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,

Other (please specify),

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

1. National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan. 2. Ocean Policy.

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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),

Climate Action (SDG 13),

Life Below Water (SDG 14),

Life on Land (SDG 15)

Q15

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

No,

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

Presently there is no overarching sustainable development strategy.

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Q16

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

Respondent skipped this question

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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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Q18

Respondent skipped this question

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

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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,****Forestry,****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.:

Services - Tourism.

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).

Agriculture,**Fisheries,****Services,**

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

The investment required for the transition to sustainable approaches may be prohibitive for some businesses.

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,

Business climate,

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

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 agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Social pressures (poverty, population growth),

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

Lack of technology transfer (including know-how),

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

Social pressures related to poverty but population growth remains constant.

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,
- Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services
- ,
- Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,
- Existing transport infrastructure,
- High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector
- ,
- High trade costs,
- Lack of data to support decision-making,
- Lack of human resource capability,
- Limited agricultural processing capacity,
- Limited economic and export diversification,
- Low productive capacity in manufacturing,
- Low productivity of agricultural sector,
- Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment
- ,
- Lack of technology transfer (including sharing of know-how)

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Q23

No

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

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Q24

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q25

Respondent skipped this question

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

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Q26

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

No,

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

Presently, there is no national sustainable development strategy, however, it is reflected in the National economic and social development plan. Strategic objective 1.7. The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines implemented a national broadband network during the period 2018-2020 and is in the process of upgrading the legal and regulatory framework for electronic communications. In this regard, the Government has set 2022 for the passage of the draft Electronic Communications Bill as well as new regulations such as Consumer protection geared at improving the quality of services offered by Telcom companies.

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):

There is an outdated National ICT Strategy and Action 2010-2015. Under the Caribbean Digital Transformation Project (CARDTP), we are currently in the procurement process for consultancy services to develop a national digital transformation strategy which will address the areas outlined.

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,

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):

Agriculture and Services – Trade Facilitation.

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).

E-commerce,

E-government,

E-healthcare,

E-learning,

E-logistics,

Smart work,

Telepresence

Q30**Unsure**

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**Unsure**

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 payments issues,
Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity
 ,
Insufficient or uneven internet coverage,
National digital connectivity strategy needs to be developed/updated
 ,
National e-commerce development strategy needs to be developed/updated
 ,
Poor digital skills and IT literacy,
Rules relating to e-commerce need updating,
Trade facilitation and logistics issues

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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,
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 facilitation,

(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)

,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Fishing,

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)

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).

Canada,
 European Union,
 Italy,
 Japan,
 Norway,
 United States,
 Kuwait (KFAED),
 Caribbean Development Bank (CDB),
 Climate Investment Funds (CIF),
 EU Institutions,
 Global Environment Facility (GEF),
 International Labour Office (ILO),
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
 UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP),
 ,
 UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),
 World Bank,

Additional information on the donor(s) that are the most importance source of Aid-for-Trade financing for sustainable trade or development in your country.:
 Norway through the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

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).

Kuwait,
 South Korea*,
 United Arab Emirates

Q37

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

Unsure

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

Q39 **Yes**

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?

Q40 **Yes**

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

Q41 **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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Q42 **No**

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

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Q43 **Respondent skipped this question**

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

Q44 **Respondent skipped this question**

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)?

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Q45 **Unsure**

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

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,
 Difficulties in meeting regulatory and procedural requirements
 ,
 Gender pay gap,
 Informal employment,
 Poor access to information,
 Seasonal employment,
 Smaller sized business,
 Unpaid care and domestic work

Q47

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

Yes

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Q48

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

No

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Q49

Respondent skipped this question

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

No

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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Q57

Agriculture,
Fisheries

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).

Q58

Respondent skipped this question

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).

Q59

Respondent skipped this question

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

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Q60

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

(1) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology, (2) Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture, (3) Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Settlement.
