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Q1 COUNTRY LOCATION

ECOWAS, headquartered in NIGERIA

Q2 About you

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Page 7: SECTION 1: AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES (AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES FOR YOUR REGION OR TRANSPORT CORRIDOR)

Q3 Does your regional or transport corridor development strategy include trade priorities ? (i.e. Aid-for-Trade priorities)	Yes
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Q4 If yes, please indicate your Aid-for-Trade priorities: Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the ones listed below. (1 being the most important)

Connecting to value chains	3
Network and/or transport infrastructure of a cross border nature	2
Regional integration	1
Trade facilitation	4
Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation	5

Please specify further the priorities that you selected above as well as the main problems/obstacles encountered in furthering them and provide a weblink to the relevant strategy.

Existing regional instruments. Priority is to consolidate and implement:

a. **Regional integration:** Regional Integration is the raison d'être for ECOWAS. "Aims of the Community are to promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African Continent". (ECOWAS revised treaty, Art. 3). Challenges include periodic peace & security issues which divert limited resources from economic development. .

b. **Network** (power, water, telecommunications) and/or transport infrastructure of a cross border nature: Infrastructural development is critical to social and economic development. Challenges include insufficient funds to bridge significant infrastructural deficit. Key strategies include Infrastructural Master Plan.

c. **Connecting to Value Chains:** Connectivity to regional and global value chains contributes value addition and promotes industrialization. Challenges include poor connectivity and supply side capacity. Key strategies include West African Industrial Policy (WACIP) and Action Plan.

d. **Trade Facilitation:** Important for connection to regional and global value chain. Challenges include coordination of multiple actors. Key policies include ECOWAS Customs Code and ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS). Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation: Improving utilization of current market access as well as negotiating additional preferential market access. Challenges include inability to take advantage of current opportunities and full capacity to negotiate multiple new Agreements simultaneously.

Q5 Have your Aid-for-Trade priorities changed since 2016?

No,

Please specify further the priorities that you selected above, as well as the main problems/obstacles encountered in furthering them. Please include a weblink to the relevant strategy.:

Priorities haven't changed. However, new issues are emerging. One such is e-Commerce and is growing in importance. However this is a cross cutting issue and is being addressed at sectoral levels (e.g. Telecommunications, Education)

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Q6 If yes, please rank the top 3 drivers of these changes :(Please choose no more than 3 options)

Respondent skipped this question

Q7 Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with development partners?

Respondent skipped this question

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Q8 Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to Aid for Trade in your region or transport corridor.

Policy documents relevant to Aid for Trade include:

- Community Development Programme (CDP)
- ECOWAS Aid for Trade Strategy and Action plan (2016 – 2020)
- ECOWAS Customs Code (2017)
- ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS)
- ECOWAS Regional Infrastructures Development Master Plan
- Revised ECOWAS power generation masterplan (2019-2033)
- ECOWAS West African Power Pool (WAPP)
- West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP)
- ECOWAS Energy Policy (2003)
- ECOWAS/UEMOA White paper for Energy Access in Rural/Peri-Urban Areas (2006)
- ECOWAS Electricity Generation and Transmission Master Plan
- Supplementary Acts to harmonize the ICT sector's policy and regulatory frameworks
- ECOWAS Private Sector Development Strategy
- ECOWAS MSME Charter (2016)
- ECOWAS Gender Policy (2005)
- Supplementary Act on Equality between Women & Men for Sustainable Development (2014)
- ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
- ECOWAS Framework & Action Plan for Gender and Trade (2014)
- ECOWAS Framework & Action Plan for Gender and Migration (2014)
- ECOWAS Youth Policy
- ECOWAS Youth Employment Action Plan (2018 – 2022)
- ECOWAS Common Industrial Policy and Action Plan (2016 – 2020)
- West Africa Quality System Programme
- ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and Regional Agricultural Investment Policy
- ECOWAS Mining Development Policy
- ECOWAS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy
- PESCAO Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa

Q9 Is economic diversification a priority in your regional or transport corridor development strategy?

Yes - If yes, please provide additional information (including as to how economic diversification is defined and measured).: Key regional policies/strategies include:

- ECOWAS Common Industrial Policy and Action Plan
- ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and Regional Agricultural Investment Policy
- ECOWAS Private Sector Development Strategy
- West African Quality System Programme (WAQSP)
- ECOWAS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy
- Revised ECOWAS power generation masterplan (2019-2033) Indicators to monitor the performance of the ECOWAS Common Industrial Policy and Action Plan include:
 - % Increase in exports
 - %share of Industry/Manufacturing of regional GDP
 - Level of employment in Industry
 - Value Addition/ Level of processing
 - Savings and investment ratios
 - Ratio of imported inputs from outside the region
 - Ratio of intra-regional trade

Q10 What are the main constraints to economic diversification identified in your regional or transport corridor development strategy?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Inadequate network infrastructure (power, water, telecommunications),

Limited access to trade finance ,

Limited e-trade readiness,

Limited network and/or transport infrastructure of a cross border nature,

Limited standards compliance ,

Low levels of training and skills ,

Small domestic market,

Transport infrastructure (airport, roads, rail, port) ,

Unaffordable and/or unreliable electricity access

Q11 Please indicate in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing your region or transport corridor receives support for economic diversification.(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

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),

Trade policy and administrative management ,

Trade facilitation,

Trade education/training,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure ,

Business support services,

Agriculture,

Fishing,

Industry

Q12 Does the aid-for-trade support your region or transport corridor receives for economic diversification align with the priorities established in your national or regional or transport corridor development strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the aid-for-trade support your region or transport corridor receives for economic diversification aligns with the priorities established in your regional or transport corridor development strategy(ies):

- Trade Facilitation West Africa Programme: Simplification, harmonization, standardization and modernization of trade procedures Implementation of ECOWAS' Trade Facilitation Agenda and the WTO agreements on trade facilitation
- West African Competitiveness Programme: Strengthening national and regional value chains with higher export and job creation potential; Improve the business climate at regional and national levels.
- Energy Governance: Improve regional governance of the energy sector in order to achieve the three objectives of SE4ALL 2030: (1) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (2) doubling energy efficiency; (3) doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix.
- Transport Governance: Develop institutional and regulatory capacities; Strengthen the capacities of Governments and national agencies ; Improve maintenance of the regional network and its sustainability by the cessation of overloading
- PESCAO –Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa: Improve regional fisheries governance in Western Africa; Improve coordination of national fisheries policies.
- Resilience Governance: Strengthen regional governance of food and nutrition security and agricultural policies - including in gender equality - in the context of resilience in West Africa with a view to enhancing Achieving the Zero Hunger Target by 2025.

Q13 Has your region or transport corridor recorded progress in economic diversification since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade initiative in 2006?

Unsure,

Additional information on whether your region or transport corridor has recorded progress in economic diversification since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade initiative in 2006?:

- Intra community trade as percentage of ECOWAS Exports: 10% (2011), 12% (2016)
- Export of goods and Services (as %GDP): 28.2% (2004-2008), range of 15.3 –26.9 (between 2009 – 2017); 18.8 (2017)
- Import of goods and Services (as %GDP): 23.7% (2004-2008), range of 19.9 – 27.3 (between 2009 – 2017); 21.4 (2017)
- Agriculture, value added (as %GDP): 31.6 (2006), 22.1 (2018)
- Industry, value added (as %GDP): 37.4 (2006), 21.3 (2018) • Service, value added (as %GDP): 31.0 (2006), 56.6 (2018)

Q14 If yes, please specify in which area(s):(You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

Q15 If yes, please also indicate in which sector(s): (You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

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Q16 In which category(ies) of Aid for Trade is the support your region or transport corridor receives impactful for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Trade policy and administrative management ,

Trade facilitation,

Trade education/training,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Agriculture,

Industry,

Additional information on the category(ies) of Aid for Trade in which the support your region or transport corridor receives is impactful for economic diversification, including information on which your answer is based.:

- Development of ECOWAS Customs Code
- Completion and handing over of two joint border posts
- West Africa Quality System programme

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Q17 What factors contribute to the success of the aid-for-trade support your region or transport corridor receives for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Alignment of aid-for-trade support with national/regional priorities ,

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes,

National/regional coordination

Q18 What factors may limit the success of the aid-for-trade support that your region or transport corridor receives for economic diversification?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors.)

Inadequate infrastructure,

Lack of country ownership,

Limited financing for the private sector ,

Poor coordination among donors ,

Weak institutional capacity

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Q19 Does the Aid for Trade you receive help mobilize other forms of development finance for economic diversification (i.e. non-concessional financing, foreign direct investment, remittances, trade finance, etc.).

Yes,

Additional information on how Aid for Trade received helps mobilize other forms of development finance for economic diversification.:

EDF and blending

Q20 Which development partner(s) are the most important source of aid-for-trade financing for economic diversification in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box)

European Union,

France,

Germany,

Sweden,

United States,

**African Development Bank,
(AfDB)**

**World
Bank**

Q21 Which South-South partner(s) are the most important source of financing for your economic diversification in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box)

China

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Q22 Looking ahead, in which sector(s) will future support for economic diversification be most required in your region or transport corridor? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Agriculture,

Industry,

Services

Q23 Looking ahead, in which category of aid-for-trade financing do you think your region or transport corridor will require aid-for-trade support for economic diversification. (You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

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),

Trade policy and administrative management ,

Trade facilitation,

Trade education/training,

Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development),

Business support services,

Banking and financial services ,

Building productive capacity ,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Mineral resources and mining,

Travel and tourism

Q24 Is there any Aid-for-Trade project or programme for economic diversification that you would like to showcase as an example of best practice?(Please provide additional information and include weblinks as relevant)

Respondent skipped this question

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Q25 Is economic empowerment a priority in your regional or transport corridor development strategy?

Yes,

If yes, please provide additional information on how economic empowerment is prioritized in your regional or transport corridor development strategy.:

- ECOWAS Private Sector Development Strategy
- MSME charter
- ECOWAS/UEMOA White paper for Energy Access in Rural/Peri-Urban Areas
- ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
- Supplementary Act on Equality between Women & Men for Sustainable Development
- ECOWAS Gender Policy (2005) • ECOWAS Framework & Action Plan for Gender and Trade
- ECOWAS Framework & Action Plan for Gender and Migration
- ECOWAS Youth Policy
- ECOWAS Common Industrial Policy and Action Plan
- West Africa Quality System Programme • ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and Regional Agricultural Investment Policy
- ECOWAS Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy ECOWAS Youth Employment Action Plan (2018 – 2022) The ECOWAS Youth Employment Action Plan (2018 – 2022) aims to facilitate the creation of a suitable environment for job creation and decent work in Member States of the region. The action plan identifies five key priority areas of intervention namely:

- (i) national action planning for youth employment;
- (ii) employability through technical vocational education and training;
- (iii) private sector engagement with youth development;
- (iv) Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS);
- and (v) interregional mobility of young workers.

1. National Action Planning for Youth Employment: Supporting the development of National Action Plans on Youth Employment in those Member States where they do not yet exist.

2. Youth Employability through Technical Vocational Education and Training: Supporting development of Professional Training Policies and Action Plans; linking private sector companies to develop market oriented degrees and courses; promoting the extension of graduate volunteer and internship programmes to other Member States.

3. Youth Engagement in Private Sector Development: Applying a 'youth lens' to interventions in Private Sector Development in the region; supporting the development of business incubation services in the region; supporting access to finance for young entrepreneurs; and exploring employment through labour-based methods on ECOWAS infrastructure projects and special legislations to promote youth innovations and inventions.

4. Labour Market Information Systems: Supporting implementation of Market Information Systems: Supporting implementation of a functional Labour Market Information Systems in the region;; supporting careers advice services for young people in Member States; and establishing a regional employment information services.

5. Intraregional Mobility of Young Workers: Supporting the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement for cross border traders, migrant workers and entrepreneurs; expanding the ECOWAS Volunteer Programme; and launching of the certificate equivalence framework in the region. Supplementary Act on Equality between Women & Men for Sustainable Development has the following objectives:

- to map out a binding legal document harnessing all synergies for the harmonization of national legislations with international commitments to protect and promote women's rights in West Africa;
- to harmonize existing legislation and policies in the ECOWAS region into a single regional instrument that will provide a basis and a common reference for all Member States;
- to establish, within the framework of the implementation of the commitments made in this Supplementary Act, an agenda and a mechanism for periodic evaluation at both national and regional levels;
- to strive to strengthen the economic activities of women, eliminate discrimination and achieve gender equality and equity through the development and effective implementation of laws and policies;
- to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups, mainly women, girls and boys, the elderly and people living with a handicap in line with the demands of sustainable development;
- to increase the rate of women's participation at all levels of decision-making in the different sectors, particularly in the political sphere, notably the processes of conflict prevention and management and the restoration of peace and security; • to ensure a greater role for women in early warning mechanisms within the ECOWAS region;
- consolidate regional integration and sustainable development through the effective participation of women in the regional integration process.

• Gender and Trade Plan of Action:

Objectives

1. To increase women's productive capacity and export competitiveness
 2. To promote gender-sensitive trade policy development and implementation among Member countries
 3. To strengthen synergy and coordination mechanism for different agencies involved in trade and border management
 4. To increase investment in gender sensitive infrastructure to facilitate trade
 5. To enhance research in gender and trade for evidence-based decision making
 6. To put in place a monitoring and evaluation system that ensures an effective and efficient management and implementation of the plan of action
- Priorities
- Training and Capacity Building for Women traders on their rights, custom processes, and trade negotiations.
 - Training and Capacity building for Custom Officers and other Border- Management Regulation Officers
 - Investment in Infrastructure to facilitate productive activities and for security for Women traders

- Enhanced research and gender-disaggregated data collection for evidence-based decision-making.
- Strengthening of synergy and coordination mechanisms for different governmental agencies involved in trade and border management
- Empowerment of women to boost their export competitiveness
- Mainstream gender into trade policies and all aspects of the trade negotiation process.

Objectives of the Gender and Migration Plan of Action

1. To make available relevant data on Gender and Migration in ECOWAS Region.
2. To enlighten, sensitize and communicate with the citizens of West Africa on issues concerning Gender and Migration.
3. To train and enhance the capacity of state and non-state actors and the ECOWAS Commission on the challenges of gender, migration and development.
4. To put in place mechanism to reverse the illegal migration of young women and men from ECOWAS Region to other parts of the world.
5. To ensure that women and children in the sub-region are safe from human trafficking.
6. To put in place mechanisms that will eliminate absolute poverty in the region, thereby creating an enabling environment for youth to develop their full potentials.
7. To put in place mechanisms to address the challenges and constraints of women in cross-border trading.
8. To put in place mechanisms to address the needs of women migrants in conflict situations (refugees and internally displaced persons).
9. To put in place a Monitoring and Evaluation System that ensures an effective and efficient management and implementation of the plan of action.

ECOWAS MSME Charter The overall objective of the charter is to strengthen the ECOWAS MSME and upscale competitive capacity through:

- Regional capacity building programmes
- Building regional partnership platforms
- Regional entrepreneurship development
- Regional finance access facilitation
- Regional business promotion

The specific objectives include:

- Harmonisation of the definition of MSMEs
- Determination of the institutional framework for the promotion and development of MSMEs, the roles of various stakeholders and the monitoring framework.

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Q26 For which groups does your regional or transport corridor development strategy seek to promote economic empowerment?(You may tick more than 1 box)

**Women's economic ,
empowerment**

**Micro, Small and Medium Sized ,
Enterprises**

**Youth economic
empowerment**

Q27 Does your regional or transport corridor development strategy propose any indicators to track economic empowerment or include any targets to achieve? **Yes**

Q28 Does your regional or transport corridor development strategy link economic empowerment to participation in international trade? **Yes**

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Q29 Please indicate in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing your region or transport corridor receives Aid for Trade for economic empowerment support.(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

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),

Trade facilitation,

Trade education/training,

Transport and storage infrastructure ,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure ,

Business support services,

Banking and financial , services ,

Building productive capacity

Fishing

Q30 Does the aid-for-trade support you receive for economic empowerment align with the empowerment priorities established in your transport corridor or regional trade and development strategy(ies)? **Unsure**

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Q31 How best can Aid for Trade make a contribution to women's economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Improving the provision of services ,
Improving the flow of goods at borders (Trade Facilitation),

Providing access to finance ,
Upgrading business skills,
Upgrading ICT skills ,
Upgrading the energy infrastructure

Q32 What forms of aid-for-trade financing, in your view, best support women's economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Transport and storage infrastructure ,
Business support services,
Banking and financial , services
Agriculture

Q33 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting women's economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes

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Q34 How best can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the economic empowerment of MSMEs in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Providing access to finance ,
Supporting the growth and economic development of Youth,
Upgrading business skills,

Upgrading ICT skills ,
Upgrading the energy infrastructure

Q35 What forms of Aid for Trade financing, in your view, best support the economic empowerment of MSMEs in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Business support services,
Banking and financial services ,
Building productive capacity ,
Agriculture,
Trade education/training

Q36 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting the economic empowerment of MSMEs in your region or transport corridor ? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes

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Q37 How best can Aid for Trade contribute to Youth economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor ?(You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Supporting the growth and economic development of Youth,
Upgrading business skills,

Upgrading ICT skills,
Improving access to information,
Improving digital connectivity

Q38 What forms of Aid-for-Trade financing, in your view, best support Youth economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor ?(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave all boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Business support services,
Banking and financial services ,
Building productive capacity,
Agriculture,
Trade education/training,
Communications infrastructure

Q39 What factors contribute to the success of Aid for Trade in promoting Youth economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor ? (You may tick more than 1 box. Please limit your answer to the top five factors)

Donor interest in specific projects/programmes

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Q40 In your view, can Aid for Trade make a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda ?

Yes

Q41 If yes, please specify which Sustainable Development Goal or Goals (SDGs) Aid for Trade can help to achieve.(You may tick more than 1 box)Sustainable Development Goals:

5. Gender equality

7. Affordable and clean energy

8. Decent work and economic growth

9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

14. Life below water

17. Partnership for the goals

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Q42 Which donor(s) are the most important source of aid-for-trade financing for economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box)

European Union,

United States,

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Q43 Which South-South partners are the most important source of financing for economic empowerment in your region or transport corridor?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

Q44 Looking ahead, in which category(ies) of aid-for-trade financing do you think that further support for economic empowerment will be required in your region or transport corridor.(You may tick more than 1 box and/or leave boxes unticked if you do not receive support)

Business support services,
Banking and financial services ,
Building productive capacity ,
Agriculture,
Trade education/training,
Transport and storage infrastructure ,
Communications infrastructure,
Energy supply and generation infrastructure ,
Forestry,
Fishing,
Industry,
Mineral resources and mining ,
Travel and tourism

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Q45 Please provide any additional information that you think may be relevant.(Please references in the form or weblinks, document symbols etc.)

Respondent skipped this question

Q46 Is there any Aid-for-Trade project or programme for economic empowerment you would like to showcase as particularly important for your region or transport corridor or as an example of best practice? (Please provide any relevant additional information and include weblinks as relevant)

Respondent skipped this question

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Q47 CONSULTATION (Other organizations/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply):

The following ECOWAS Directorates and Agencies were consulted:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Directorate of Agriculture | • Directorate of Customs Union | • Directorate of Energy |
| • Directorate of Gender | • Directorate of Industry | • Directorate of Private Sector |
| • Department of Infrastructure | • Youths and Sports | • Directorate of Trade |