



Summary

TITLE	Study on development from an ACP perspective in the DDA Negotiations
Applicant	ACP Group in Geneva
Duration of the Project	The intended commencement date is January 2011 and the period of implementation of the contract will be 6 months from this date.
Objectives of the action	To undertake analytical study and assessment of development from the ACP perspective in the context of the Doha Development Agenda.
Purposes of the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there is coherence between the positions ACP countries are taking in the WTO and those taken or to be taken under regional trade agreements, mainly the EPAs, in which they are also currently involved. The challenge is to ensure that the same development imperatives remain the focus of these two negotiating processes to ensure complementarities and coherence in the rights and obligations of ACP arising from them. • Define an ACP Group strategic vision of development in the DDA negotiations in a manner that the commitments taken under EPAs will not contradict those taken at the WTO; taking into consideration all relevant factors, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An assessment of the development gains that the ACP may expect from S&DT provisions being proposed in current draft modalities texts in different negotiating areas under the DDA, in particular Agriculture and NAMA and the fate of such gains if the level of ambition being pursued in respect of the Doha Round were to be reduced; ✓ an assessment of the state of play of the Implementation Issues and concerns under the DDA; ✓ the impacts of the global economic and financial crisis as the rescue packages taken by many developed countries on ACP trade and development; and ✓ the adverse effects which the MFN clause in EPAs may have on South-South trade • Convert this strategic vision into effective negotiating positions in order to facilitate the proper sequencing of ACP countries obligations in the various arenas (multilateral, inter-regional and intra-regional) and preserve, rather than weaken, their trade and development prospects; • Provide practical suggestions and recommendations to ACP negotiators to facilitate their meaningful participation in various trade negotiations
Target group(s)	<p>The target group includes ACP Group in Geneva, including ACP Missions, ACP regional organizations, ACP Embassies and Missions based in Brussels and capital-based officials in the Ministries responsible for foreign trade.</p> <p>About 140 participants from ACP regions will participate in the workshop to be held in Geneva to present and validate the study. The logistic of the workshop will be covered by a separate contract for which a company will be recruited.</p>

<p>Expertise Required</p>	<p>2 experts foreseen: a Trade Economist and a Trade Lawyer</p> <p>The experts are expected to hold appropriate consultations with capital based officials of ACP member’s states including Officials of ACP regional organizations, which will enable them to adopt a bottom-up methodology in carrying out the study. The study to be developed within the specific timeframe, should not exceeding six months from the inception date to ensure that the results are used to advance the ACP interests in the current WTO and EPAs negotiations processes.</p> <p>The experts must, as a starting point, give due consideration to the national or regional development strategies to ensure coherence and/or complementarities between, on the one hand, the principles, priorities and targets set out in these strategies and, on the other hand, the specific recommendations of the study.</p> <p>The study will review the existing WTO provisions, and where possible come up with empirical evidence of how useful they have been or why they have not been utilised, as the case may be. Carry out an assessment of the current work programme to establish how development has and should be addressed to meet the stated objectives. The study should, be based on the evaluation, propose whether reform in the WTO to address development would be necessary or not.</p> <p>The policy options recommended by the study should clearly indicate how such policies would stimulate ACP’s participation in the regional and global trade.</p> <p>A workshop is foreseen to present the results of the study. The logistic will be covered by a separate contract; however the experts will oversee the preparation, development and presentation of workshop materials.</p> <p>The trade economist will be the overall in charge of the assignment</p>
<p>Expected results</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of issues and concerns confronting ACP countries in the multilateral arena • Framing up a positive agenda which would be translated into draft submissions in relevant WTO bodies established under the DDA • Filling in the development deficits in the negotiations and meeting the development expectations of ACP countries in the multilateral arena; • Articulating ACP’s longstanding interests in terms of, inter alia, benchmarks that will continuously assist ACP negotiators when engaged in trade negotiations (multilateral, North-South and South-South). These longstanding interests should built on the defensive and offensive interests identified in the national and regional trade policy strategies of ACP member states and ACP regional organizations • Identification of commitments that are commensurate to the development needs of ACP countries; • Ensure coherence between ACP countries rights and obligations under the WTO Doha Round and those falling under other trading arrangements, including the EPAs, in a manner that will increase opportunities and welfare gains for ACP countries into the multilateral trading system and boost their development.

Main activities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review key WTO provisions that promote trade and economic development in developing countries, including various declarations emanating from the WTO Ministerial Conferences; • Review initiatives under the Doha Development Agenda, including the review of SDT provisions and implementation issues; • Building on the current development provisions, elaborate on the conceptual and practical relations between trade and economic development, and adopt principles that will facilitate the role of trade in the promotion of social economic development of the ACP countries; • Identify the wide range of the vulnerabilities faced by ACP countries, exploring areas of their comparative advantage, advocating strategies which will stimulate their economic transformation and diversification as well as boost their growth potential; • Identify elements of commonalities to ACP countries' fitting their concerns in terms of development in trade negotiations with a view to reinforce the unity and cohesion of the ACP Group; • Identify gaps to be filled from an ACP development-oriented outcome of the DDA to ensure that trade also serves as an engine for growth and development in ACP countries • Map out the core-areas for further work for ACP countries outside the DDA and propose strategies aimed at advancing their development concerns in future trade multilateral rounds; • Assist in the articulation of ACP's longstanding interests in terms of, inter alia, benchmarks that will continuously assist ACP negotiators when engaged in trade negotiations (multilateral, North-South and South-South) ; • Hold consultations with ACP Group in Geneva and in selected Secretariats of ACP regional organizations and capitals to collect the required elements and present the results of findings; • Propose required changes in the various instruments negotiated so far by ACP Group to facilitate the incorporation of the development dimension in ongoing negotiations. • In light of the shifting patterns in the field of international trade with the emergence of new actors, the consultants will examine the economic and trade trajectories of ACP countries and the regions and make appropriate recommendations intended to assist them in adjusting to these changes and taking advantage of new market niches. • The study will be subjected to the peer review before a workshop is held • Hold a validation workshop to finalise on the paper and present the results of the study. • Prepare hard copies in form of booklets for circulation to governments and regional integration organisations in the ACP regions.
Budget Estimate	200.000 €