

REFERENCE

ACP/61/020/12
DSEDT [MKG/joa]

Brussels, 27 July 2012

Information Note

**ACP High Level Forum on Emerging Issues and
Challenges in the Multilateral Trading System**

Nairobi, Kenya, 11-14 September 2012

ACP Missions in Brussels, Geneva and other European capitals covering ACP and WTO issues are informed that with the support of the MTS PMU, the Secretariat is organizing the above High Level Forum (HLF) to consider important aspects of the outcome of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference (WTO MC 8) held in Geneva from 13-15 December 2011.

Objective: The HLF will address a myriad of important issues and challenges that arose in the preparatory process and during the WTO MC 8 with a view to creating greater awareness and understanding of their possible treatment at the multilateral WTO level as well as their impact on ACP States.

Scope: The so-called 21st century issues to be considered include but are not limited to the following: trade and climate change, energy security, currency exchange issues, trade and job creation and global supply chains.

In addition, the HLF will look into the plurilateral agreements such as Government Procurement, Information Technology Agreement (ITA), and Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) to assess their impact on ACP trade.

Outcome: The HLF is expected to come up with recommendations on the course of action that the ACP Group should take, especially how ACP negotiators should ensure that development remains at the core of the multilateral trade negotiations. In this regard, the HLF will draw on the recently concluded study commissioned by the MTS PMU on the definition of development in the Doha Round trade from an ACP perspective. The recommendations will be submitted to the ACP Ministers of Trade who are planned to meet in Brussels on 24-26 October 2012.

../..



Documentation: The preliminary draft programme and agenda for the meeting is attached. Other background information and material will be provided in due course.

Participants: The target audience is ACP high level trade officials (Permanent Secretaries and Directors of Trade) at national and regional levels, as well as ACP Geneva or European based Ambassadors/Representatives of Missions to the WTO and Brussels based Ambassadors who chair relevant ACP Committees and Subcommittees.

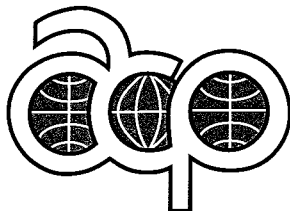
Nominations: Qualifying ACP States (those that benefit from ACP Secretariat EDF funding and are not under sanctions for non-payment of contributions), Regional Secretariats (whose mandate include WTO issues) and Geneva/European based Missions to WTO are invited to nominate participants who will be considered on a first come first serve basis up to the available budget. Additional delegates intending to attend the meeting at their own cost are welcome and should provide their names to the ACP Secretariat.

Deadlines: All nominations should be sent to the MTS PMU on contact@acp-mts-programme.org and copied to Secretary-General, ACP Secretariat through Fax +322 7355573. or E-mail: info@acp.int and joa@acp.int. The nominations should be sent before **20 August 2012**. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

Travel arrangements: Funded participants will be provided with an economy fare return air ticket. The PMU will contact nominated participants with a proposed itinerary, which they will be requested to confirm in as short a time as possible. It should be noted that the Secretariat will not accommodate requests for preferred routes or airlines if this turns out to be more expensive than the route proposed by the PMU.

Visa: Each participant will be responsible for obtaining the requisite entry visa and is advised to start the process at the earliest opportunity.

Venue: The meeting will take place at a venue to be advised later in a Hotel in Central Business District of Nairobi where most of the delegates will be booked.



REFERENCE

ACP/61/021/12
DSEDT [MKG/joa] *gjk*

Brussels, 20 July 2012

**ACP High Level Forum on Emerging Issues and
Challenges in the Multilateral Trading System
11 – 14 September 2012**

Nairobi, Kenya

Preliminary Draft Programme and Agenda

Monday, 10 September 2012

Arrival and registration

Tuesday, 11 September 2012

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 10:00 Opening session

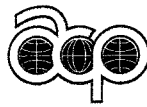
- Welcome statement by Host Ministry
- Statement by Secretary-General of the ACP Group
- Statement by the EU Commissioner for Development
- Opening Speech by the Distinguished Kenyan Guest of Honour

10:00 – 10:30 Photo Session and Coffee/Health Break

**10:30 – 13:00 Session 1 – Theme: Overview of the emerging issues at the
multilateral trading system**

- Politics of the multilateral trading system
- Multilateralism at risk
- Impact of debt crisis in the Euro area
- The place of emerging issues (climate change, energy security, currency exchange and global supply chains) in the multilateral trading system

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break



14:30 – 17:30 Session 2 - Theme: the nexus between trade, environment and climate change

- Trade and climate change
- Environmental good and services
- Multilateral environmental agreements and trade
- Trade in natural resources

Wednesday, 12 September 2012

08:30- 10:45 Session 3 –Theme: Trade and food security

- Agreement on Agriculture and food security
- Impact of WTO disciplines including export taxes on food security
- Way forward for NFIDCs

10:45 – 11:00 Health break

11:00 – 13:00 Session 4 – Theme: trade and job creation

- Role of trade liberalization
- Trade and labour productivity revisited
- Trade policy for productivity and growth

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 17:30 Session 5 – Theme: Trade and Finance

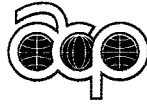
- Exchange rates and their effects on trade
- Effect of foreign exchange movements on competitiveness of ACP exports
- Coherence between WTO, IMF and World Bank

Thursday, 13 September 2012

08:30 – 10:45 Session 6 – Theme: Proliferation of plurilateral agreements

- Implications of plurilateral agreements on ACP States
- Expanded Government Procurement Agreement
- Multilateral vs bilateral trade agreements
- The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

10:45 – 11:00 Health Break



11:00 – 13:00

Session 7 – Theme: Global supply chains

- Impact of global supply chains in international trade
- Logistics services
- Trade facilitation

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 17:30

Session 5 – Theme: Trade and development

- Strategy for pursuing the development agenda in the WTO
- Technical assistance needs in the face of present and emerging challenges
- Consideration of an outcome document containing recommendations to ACP Ministers of Trade

Friday, 14 September 2012

08:30 – 11:45

Closing session – Theme – Looking to the future

- Adoption of the outcome document
- Closing statements
- Issue of Press Communiqué

11:45 – 12:00

Health break

12:00 – 14:30

Steering Committee of the ACP MTS Programme (closed meeting)
