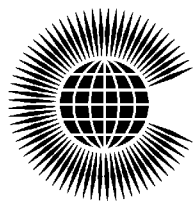


Commonwealth Secretariat



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SMALL STATES: THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE LANDSCAPE

Paper by the Commonwealth Secretariat

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I. Executive Summary

This paper informs Ministers of the recent developments in the International Trading System that impact on Small States and outlines the work of the Secretariat in this area. The Commonwealth recognises that trade, particularly when equitable, can make an indispensable contribution to economic growth which is an important factor in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However the more vulnerable developing countries, such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Small Vulnerable States (SVEs) face special challenges and problems from the globalization process. Preferential trading benefits are eroding as multilateral and regional liberalization takes effect. The rapid pace of globalization and changes in the trading system offer new opportunities but also pose challenges for the LDCs and small states¹. For them, their ability to cope and adapt is constrained by the vulnerability and frequent fragility of their economies.

2. The Commonwealth is committed to promoting a development-friendly global trading system that would enable small states to benefit from those opportunities and support them in developing appropriate national policies, domestic capacity and securing adequate assistance. Recognizing their inherent vulnerabilities, the Secretariat has advocated resilience building of its small states members and promoted dialogue and strengthening of engagement amongst Commonwealth governments in order to build broad political consensus on international trade issues. Topical evidence-based analysis is undertaken and circulated to developing member countries to apprise them of current and prospective future trade developments that could have implications for their policy options and opportunities for their enhanced and sustained growth.

3. This paper outlines the work of the Secretariat in the trade area and summarises the findings and recommendations of various studies and workshops conducted by the Secretariat.

4. It outlines the Commonwealth's Vision for Trade adopted by the 2007 CHOGM which assesses the opportunities and challenges for Commonwealth small states. It also highlights the need for increased cooperation amongst states and harnessing of effective development support to assist developing member country address the costs associated with integrating into the global trading system.

5. The last CFFM supported an early resumption of the Doha talks and also recognised the importance of aid for trade calling on donors to deliver on their commitments to increase their contribution. They "*urged concerted efforts aimed at identifying the causes of the relatively poor growth performance of small states as well as designing and delivering appropriate assistance for them*". If the Doha talks are to succeed, it is essential that those problems and shortcomings which caused past failures are addressed and rectified. The WTO needs to address and reconcile the trade and development needs of its members more coherently and explicitly as well as appreciate that the expansion of trade and management of the system must be for the benefit of all WTO members. To ensure a fair and balanced outcome of negotiations, the Doha Round must deliver on development, including 1) genuine Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF) market access for LDCs to all developed country markets;

¹ Commonwealth Secretariat, *Small States, Economic Review and Basic Statistics, Volume 12, 2008.*

2) meaningful and effective special and differential treatment; 3) preserving the positive 'early harvests' made in all the areas of the talks; and 4) find equitable solutions to key specific concerns such as preference erosion, fisheries, bananas and cotton.

6. A fundamental question is whether the WTO is due for review. The multilateral trading system operates in a world that has changed dramatically since the immediate post-war period when it was initially designed. Its relevance to the challenges of today's world and ability to effectively deliver on changing global objectives has been increasingly questioned. The system also faces inherent contradictions and challenges, including weak supply capacities in LDCs and small states; uneven participation in the decision-making process at the WTO, and the different negotiating capacities of members.

7. With Forty Commonwealth members also belonging to the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group, the negotiations with the European Union (EU) for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) constitutes a priority area of attention. The EPAs were intended to promote sustainable development and contribute to poverty reduction. Early assessments of the interim agreements initiated by some of the ACP countries since the end of last year have led some ACPs to question their ability to contribute to sustainable development and regional integration efforts. They are also skeptical over the ability of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to provide the required funding for implementation and adaptation. Indications are that there is a desire among the ACP for more coordination of negotiations among the regions particularly with regard to cross-cutting issues such as rules of origin; the MFN clause; safeguards; dispute settlement; the development dimension of EPAs; Aid for trade and the erosion of preferences.

8. The Secretariat is undertaking analytical studies to assist Commonwealth small states and LDCs adapt their trade policies to changing dynamics in the global environment. These will include analytical studies on trade and climate change; China's policy and its effects on Africa; the impact of sustained high oil and food prices on trade flows; the economic significance of the emerging economies of Brazil, India, China and South Africa and their impact on international trade, investment and finance; and Aid for Trade and how it can help countries to take advantage of new trading opportunities and beneficially integrate into the global trading system. Other studies undertaken included the 'Impact on ACP member states of the EC's offer of Duty Free and Quota Free market access for sugar under EPAs'; studies on Implications for Developing Countries of Bilaterally Negotiated Issues: Government Procurement, Competition Policy & Services, and a Value chains Study. Analytical studies were also undertaken on the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Implications of the EU-India FTA on developing countries and a multi-country study on services trade and domestic regulation. A general study is ongoing that aims to assist small states in better understanding why they might not be doing as well as they could in securing their desired outcomes from international negotiations. The results of these studies contribute towards providing developing member countries with evidence-based analysis to support their negotiations and assist them to better adapt their policies.

9. The Secretariat has also been providing technical assistance at the operational level to twelve small member states to enable them to enhance their competitiveness in the world market. Several other countries have been helped to elaborate national export strategies while many small states in particular have been provided assistance in developing strategies/action

plans for enhancing the export of services including tourism. The paper concludes with recommendations for Ministers to consider.

II. Background

10. The rapid pace of globalization and changes in the global trading system pose new opportunities and challenges for small states². Their ability to withstand the resulting pressures is exacerbated by their economic vulnerability which can be largely attributed to their special challenges and problems including small size, frequent excessive openness, lack of diversification, difficulties in attracting foreign investment, low productivity and competitiveness, frequent isolation and distance from main markets that result in high transport and transit costs.³ There are nonetheless notable examples where small states have managed, despite these inherent characteristics, to overcome these handicaps by nurturing economic resilience through sound macroeconomic management.⁴

11. Policies implemented by small states and the support provided by international institutions need to focus on enabling them to cope with their inherent vulnerability. In this regard, the Secretariat has been advocating the need for small states to build their economic resilience in order to withstand and rebound from negative shocks. One such negative shock being experienced by small states, is the erosion of trade preferences and the resulting decline in the export receipts and the major sectors such as sugar and bananas. The economic resilience framework, which is associated with good economic governance, includes policies aimed at macroeconomic stability and market efficiency.

12. In recent years, the Commonwealth Secretariat has concentrated on trade negotiations, in particular supporting its members in the Doha and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. But even before these come to an end, priority is being given to implementing the agreements and supporting the efforts of developing country members, particularly LDCs and small states, to benefit from trading opportunities as the world continues to change, new economic giants emerge and regional and bilateral trading arrangements proliferate. As the report suggests, the Commonwealth can assist its members to beneficially adapt to the changing global economic environment beyond Doha.

13. During the next few years, the trading environment in which Commonwealth members operate is expected to go through major upheavals and changes which will usher in unprecedented opportunities but also challenges and new threats.

² *Ibid*

³ WTO Document: WT/COMTD/SE/W/12: Small Economies submission to the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) providing indicative list of 17 specific characteristics and problems of small economies.

⁴ T.K. Jayaraman: *The Role of Fiscal Policy in Resilience Building: The Experiences of Pacific Island Countries*. 2008.

III. Trade for Development: A Role for the Commonwealth

Commonwealth Vision for Trade

14. The Commonwealth accepts that trade can make an indispensable contribution to economic growth which, particularly when equitable, is the most important factor in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To this end, the Commonwealth is committed to promoting a development-friendly global trading system that creates greater trading opportunities for developing countries and ensures that they have the necessary national policies, domestic capacity, and adjustment assistance to enable them to benefit from those opportunities.

15. The Commonwealth is also committed to supporting pro-poor policies for economic growth and sustainable development in member countries. The Secretariat pursues this objective in trade via its programmes to enhance the ability of developing member countries, particularly LDCs and small vulnerable states, to function satisfactorily in formulating and implementing appropriate policies and effectively negotiating at regional and multilateral levels to secure their interests.

16. The eight rounds of multilateral trade negotiations prior to Doha had focussed primarily, though not exclusively, on tariff reductions and other barriers to trade. As protection has fallen, global attention has shifted to focus on trade constraints that lie behind the border. At the same time the recent emergence of new emerging markets for and suppliers of goods and services, is dramatically transforming global trade patterns. This dynamism will be accentuated by the continued increase in the mobility of factors of production: labour and especially capital for investment. This new trading environment will offer opportunities but also present challenges that require increased cooperation among nations, and in particular increased support for the poorest and most vulnerable that are least able to cope.

17. While regionalism has had its benefits, the division of the world into a series of overlapping trading blocs opens a new paradigm of international economic relations. This paradigm may leave some nations more exposed to debilitating global forces and more isolated from the traditional multilateral mechanisms that could provide support. In particular, the negotiating strength of small states is weaker in a bilateral context.

18. The turn of the century seemed to herald a new sense of shared responsibility for global challenges and an increased willingness to act collectively to solve them. The establishment of the MDGs, the launch of the Doha Round, and the Monterrey Consensus, were all concrete expressions of this commitment. The best option for the world is an inclusive rules-based multilateral trading system that is designed to support universal economic growth, sustainable development and poverty alleviation in developing countries. To achieve this, multilateralism will need refreshed mandates, built through the expansion of new and alternative forums, and with the increased support from governments, NGOs, business groups and the public.

2007 Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting mandate on Trade

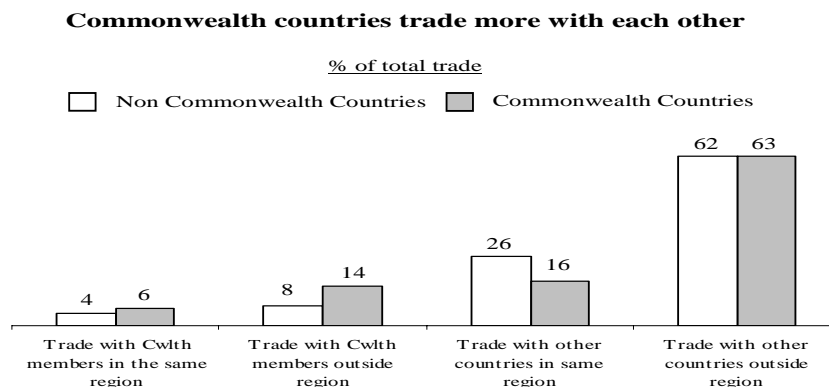
19. At the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in 2007, Ministers recognised that the lack of progress in the Doha Round and the ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations could pose further threats to continued non-inflationary growth in high income countries and even more so for developing countries. The Ministers therefore “urged key stakeholders to renew efforts to reach an early conclusion to the Doha Round trade negotiations and to resist protectionism. Ministers also recognised the importance of aid for trade to enable developing countries to exploit fully new trade opportunities and called on donors to deliver on their commitments to increase aid for trade”. The Ministers also “urged concerted efforts aimed at identifying the causes of the relatively poor growth performance of small states as well as designing and delivering appropriate assistance for them”.

20. These recommendations and mandates have provided guidance to the Secretariat on adapting its programmes and activities on international trade in order to ensure continued relevance of its work in the rapidly changing trading environment and in remaining responsive to the needs of member states, particularly those most in need of support.

Commonwealth Trade Flows

21. Evidence from trading patterns shows that intra-Commonwealth trade in goods is strong. On average, one-fifth of Commonwealth members’ trade with other members. When trading within their own region or outside it, Commonwealth countries conduct more trade with other members than with non-Commonwealth countries (Figure 1 below).

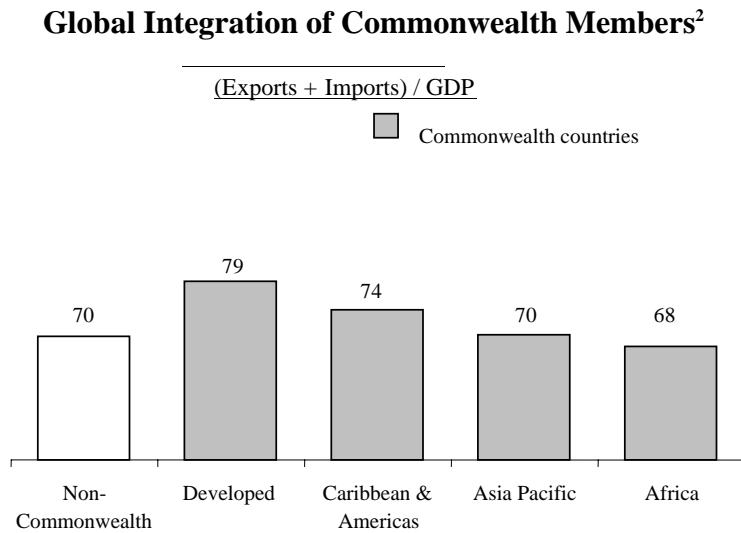
Figure 1:



Source: Commonwealth Report: *Trade for Development - A Role for the Commonwealth*, August 2006, p.8

22. In terms of their level of global integration, there is significant variation within the Commonwealth. Measured by the ratio of their trade to GDP, Commonwealth developed countries (UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) are highly integrated (Figure 2 below). Many African members of the Commonwealth are the least integrated and have a trade to GDP ratio below the world average⁵ – suggesting that this region should be an area of focus for technical assistance.

Figure 2:



Source: Commonwealth Report: *Trade for Development - A Role for the Commonwealth*, August 2006, p.8

⁵ Whilst Commonwealth Members overall have a high trade to GDP ratio, for the small Members this is indicative of their extreme openness and consequent vulnerability and susceptibility to external economic shocks. This is compounded by the often substantial trade deficits of these countries
No reference in text

IV. International Trading System

23. The world trading system is in transition. Whatever the outcome of the Doha Round, national priorities will shift from multilateral negotiations towards new priorities. The focus of assistance will no longer be support for capacity to negotiate, but rather building capacity for trade. Hence the Commonwealth's support in the area of international trade must anticipate future trade policy issues and develop forward-looking plans to support its members. The Commonwealth is convinced that economic coordination and cooperation amongst members is essential at the current stage of the multilateral trade negotiations and with the increasing proliferation of bilateral and regional trading arrangements.

Multilateral Trade

24. With trade liberalisation and increased investment seen as contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction, a lot had been expected of the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations which stalled at the end of July 2008.⁷

25. Despite the clear consensus that the talks need to be resumed at some stage, if they are to succeed this time, it is essential that those problems and shortcomings which caused past failures are addressed and rectified. Possibly the WTO might need to address more coherently and explicitly and reconcile the trade and development needs of its members. The multilateral trading system needs to acknowledge that its contribution is vital to the attainment of the MDGs.

26. Even with greater access to markets, many of the least developed and poorest countries may be unable to use the opportunities that come with more open markets either because of inadequate infrastructure and poorly performing trade-related institutions or as a result of policies that create disincentives or impediments to trade and investment. Additional support, including *aid for trade*, is required to enable them to adjust their domestic policies, develop their infrastructure, and upgrade their trade-supporting institutions, production structures and capacities so as to take advantage of new trading opportunities and beneficially integrate into the global trading system.

Resumption of Doha Trade Talks

27. Resumed Doha negotiations need to recognise that the expansion of trade and the management of the system must be for the benefit of all WTO members. To ensure a fair and balanced outcome of negotiations; the Doha Round must deliver on development, including 1) genuine Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF) market access for LDCs to all developed country markets; 2) meaningful and effective special and differential treatment; and 3) preserving the **positive** 'early harvests' made in all the areas of the talks.

28. However, it is not only cross-cutting and systemic failings that need to be addressed but also specific concerns of countries. Unless equitable outcomes can be achieved there will always be the risk that a *macro deal will flounder at the micro level*. Examples of such deal-

⁷ The stance of a large number of developing countries, in the dispute over the structuring of the special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for agriculture, which seeks to ensure effective protection against threats to domestic agriculture from import surges, was portrayed in certain sectors of the press as responsible for the collapse.

breakers include the hitherto intractable banana dispute. Another is cotton. Despite the 2005 commitment to address the problem ambitiously, expeditiously and specifically, the issue has not even been receiving attention in recent months. Fisheries too can be an obstacle to a deal. Here, the need is for a just and balanced agreement that encompasses the issue of subsidies and safeguards for small scale fishing. Of concern to many LDCs and small developing countries is the need for safeguards that mitigate the impact of the erosion of long-standing trade preferences. This is needed both in its own right and in recognition of the reality that unless safeguards are agreed upon for the “losers” their predicament will serve as a brake on liberalization.

Reviewing the WTO

29. The last CHOGM had noted that the current architecture of international institutions which was largely designed in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War does not adequately address the challenges of the 21st century world. This situation the Heads felt undermines the institutions legitimacy, effectiveness and credibility.

30. The debate of just a few years ago on the adequacy of the structure of the multilateral trading system to deliver on agreed global objectives has largely been replaced by a preoccupation with more immediate and pressing concerns. Recent upheavals in the global economy, the credit squeeze, escalating oil and food prices and the erratic progress in the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations foster a climate in which tackling the immediate issues of survival and adaptation are understandably the priority.

31. At the heart of the multilateral trading system is the WTO that during the last decade emerged out of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). That Agreement, along with the Bretton Woods Institutions, had constituted a central pillar of the economic architecture of the post World War II world. The WTO built on the GATT model by refining and extending its scope and coverage and making it more effective as a trade regulator. In doing so, it, however, retained the underlying logic of its parent and the *de facto* reflection of the economic power structures, particularly in decision-making. This has been the case despite WTO membership currently consisting of the vast majority of countries in the world as opposed to the handful of countries that initially signed the GATT in 1947.

32. The question now is whether or not the multilateral trading system has adequately adapted to the fundamentally new circumstances and expectations of its expanded and diverse constituents, such as LDCs and Small States. Is its underlying philosophy truly reflective of their aspirations and principles and of evolving global realities? Do the system’s management structure and operations permit the shared global objectives to be met? Are they fully in sync with new realities and if not what changes would be needed?

33. But the system also faces inherent contradictions and challenges including weak supply capacities in LDCs and small states; uneven participation in the decision-making process at the WTO and the different negotiating capacities of members; weak linkages between WTO and other international regulatory systems and organisations responsible for areas relating to trade such as labour, health, environment etc; and great divergences in power among member countries.

34. If a review of the WTO is to be undertaken it will need to focus on fundamental and objective considerations of the adequacy of the underlying trade architecture itself, rather than the implications and consequences for short term advantage among countries.⁸ Possible questions that may be considered for examination could include:

- ❖ Is there sufficient flexibility in the trading system that will permit less developed countries to use the policies that will enable them to become competitive?
- ❖ Does the WTO need to more coherently and explicitly address and reconcile trade and development needs?
- ❖ Should the multilateral system be more sensitive to the challenges of coherence between trade and such areas as the environment and climate change, energy, security, investment, and supply-side constraints? Are global approaches needed?
- ❖ Would a more conciliatory, solutions-oriented approach be more pragmatic and better suited to bridging differences in the WTO?

35. If any review is to be undertaken it would be imperative that it is conducted in a sensitive and discrete manner so as to avoid the danger of unintended confusion or association with the ongoing DDA negotiations.

Recent Commonwealth Secretariat activities on Multilateral Trade

36. The Secretariat is undertaking a study to help policy-makers in Small States assess the implications for their countries of continued delay or possible failure of the Doha talks. The analysis is based on the various options that were on the table at the time of the breakdown and those that could realistically be introduced in the event of resumption. This study is being conducted in the context of the increased trend towards regional and bilateral trade deals.

37. The Secretariat has undertaken the numerous analytical studies including the following:

Analytical Paper on the Future Action by African countries in response to the Rise of the Brazil, India, China and South Africa (BICs)⁹. The paper addresses a fundamental issue which is the economic significance of the emerging economies of Brazil, India, China and South Africa and how the impact of their rapid economic growth, whether positive or negative, is transmitted to small states and other developing countries through international trade, international investment and international finance.

Aid for Trade Study¹⁰. Even with greater access to markets, many of the least developed and poorest countries may be unable to use the opportunities that come with more open markets either because of inadequate infrastructure and poorly performing trade-related institutions or policies that create disincentives or impediments to trade and investment. Additional support, including *aid for trade*, is required to enable them to adjust their domestic policies, develop their infrastructure,

⁸ CHOGM 2007 mandate on the Review of International Institutions

⁹ By Michael Davenport

¹⁰ By the Overseas Development Institute - UK, "Aid for Trade Study"

upgrade their trade-supporting institutions, production structures and capacities so as to take advantage of new trading opportunities and beneficially integrate into the global trading system.

*Global Partnership for Development Study*¹¹ this independent study argues that globalization is a necessary but not sufficient condition for development and developing countries should abandon their pursuit of preferential treatment or concessions from developed countries, especially in terms of exemption from non-reciprocity. The paper, however, contends that developing countries should be allowed additional time to implement key trade provisions and more appropriate consideration should be provided to them given their development status.

38. In order to provide Commonwealth developing countries, particularly Small States and LDCs, with substantive research and analysis to support them in their multilateral negotiations so that development-oriented outcomes are realized, the Secretariat will undertake analytical studies on *Preference Erosion* of selected tropical products; **Agriculture; Non-Agricultural Market Access**; reviewing *LDC modalities on services and assessing services exporting opportunities* in LDCs and small states; and other multilateral trade negotiation issues. Also, consensus building meetings/Conferences will be convened to disseminate results from the commissioned studies and to facilitate dialogue to assess the DDA negotiations. Direct assistance is being provided to the ambassadors of the Commonwealth developing countries in Geneva to enable them to participate more effectively in the on-going trade negotiations. A Handbook on Trade Facilitation for negotiators was also published.

39. Among the approaches to provide assistance to small states in multilateral, ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations as well as regional integration initiatives, is the flagship “Hub & Spokes” Project. This is a joint initiative with the European Commission (EC), Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and ACP group secretariat aims to promote the effective participation of ACP states in international trade negotiations and re-enforce their capacity to formulate trade policies in compliance with their overall development strategies. It is implemented through a network of 6 Regional Trade Policy Advisers (RTPAs or “Hubs”) attached to: COMESA, SADC, CARICOM, OECS, PIF Secretariats as well as the African Union (AU) Commission and 25 Trade Policy Analysts (TPAs or “Spokes”), 19 of whom are deployed to Ministries of trade in ACP countries. Spokes prepare policy briefs, interpret legal texts of trade Agreements, undertake national needs assessment that inform national level project support programmes and analytical work that feed into country negotiating positions. In addition, they train and sensitise stakeholders on topical trade issues and backstop national consultative forums and negotiations.

40. The Commonwealth Secretariat adapts its programmes and activities on multilateral issues in order to ensure continued relevance of its work in the rapidly changing trading environment and remain responsive to the needs of member states.

¹¹ By Professor Srinivasan

Regional Trade Integration including ACP-EU EPA Negotiations

41. With the lack of progress in the WTO negotiations, both developed and emerging economies have accelerated their bilateral and regional free trade negotiations.

ACP-EU EPA Negotiations

42. Since 2002, the European Union (EU) and African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) states have been negotiating new WTO-compliant trading arrangements (referred to as the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)) to replace the non-reciprocal preferential trading regimes that have prevailed under the EU-ACP Lomé agreements since 1975. The successor Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and ACP, in 2000, agreed to implement a new trading regime by 1st January 2008, when the waiver granted by the WTO would have expired.

43. The objectives of EPAs are to promote sustainable development; contribute to poverty reduction; help countries better integrate into the world economy and promote greater regional integration amongst the ACP. EPAs were to be more than trade agreements; they were to be “development agreements”.

44. Forty Commonwealth members, which are also African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states, are negotiating with the European Union. For these economies, the EPA process has proved difficult and challenging, both in terms of process and substance. Thirty five (35) of the seventy-nine (79) ACPs initialed EPAs because of the possible risk of losing their preferential access to the EU market at the end of the Cotonou waiver in December 2008. The alternatives for not signing the agreement for non-LDC ACPs would have been the Generalized Systems of Preferences (GSP) and the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme for LDC ACPs.

Status

45. The status of EPAs in the various ACP regions is as follows:

- ❖ The **Caribbean** region (CARIFORUM) initialed comprehensive EPAs¹², while the other ACPs initialed Interim EPAs with commitments to later move towards negotiating full comprehensive regional EPAs.
- ❖ In the **Pacific**, two non-LDC countries (Fiji and Papua New Guinea) initialed while the remaining Pacific Islands are still reviewing their options.
- ❖ In **Africa**, all the EPAs are different.
 - In **West Africa**, two non-LDCs (Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana) initialed bilateral EPAs. Non-LDCs Nigeria, Gabon and Congo did not and currently trade under GSP.
 - The traditional **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** ACP group signed an Interim EPA minus South Africa, which has a bilateral free trade agreement with the EU – Trade Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA).

¹² Comprehensive EPAs cover liberalisation of trade in goods, trade in services and also cover other trade related issues.

- Other **East and Southern African states** separated into the East African Community (EAC) – Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda whilst the East and Southern African (ESA)-EU agreement consisted of Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros and Zambia.

Issues and Concerns on initialed EPAs

46. Early assessments of the initialed agreements led some ACPs to question the ability of the current agreements to contribute to their sustainable development and regional integration efforts. While the EPAs include numerous binding commitments for trade and investment liberalisation, there are no contractual, quantitative and time-bound commitments for additional financial and technical assistance to mitigate the adverse effects of EPAs such as the loss of revenue from tariffs, (which contribute significantly to ACP government revenue), and negative effects on income, production and employment. ACPs have been skeptical about the ability of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to fill the gap; in part due to likely insufficiency of resources and a structure that has been generally inadequate, slow in disbursement and unpredictable.

47. Some ACP's fear that the EPAs do not address the more inhibitive barriers to trade such as restrictive Rules of Origin and onerous Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) which will continue to preclude their ability to diversify and establish a market presence in the EU. They believe that longer transition periods are required to implement the EPAs and to build up their productive capabilities, infrastructure and human capital. Without directly addressing supply-side constraints, they feel that their nascent domestic industries will not be able to withstand the pressure from the increased competition from EU imports. Some ACPs, as well as many academics, fear that EPAs may even exacerbate the declining position of the ACP countries in the world economy, reinforce regional disintegration and worsen poverty.

48. Other concerns about the content of the EPAs stem from the EU's stance on inclusion of commitments on services, the "**Singapore issues**" (investment, competition, government procurement), intellectual property and e-commerce. Inclusion of these subjects is not required in order to conform to the WTO rules on the RTAs. Some negotiators have called for better provisions regarding special safeguard measures and flexibilities that reflect the ACP countries' own national and regional circumstances, priorities and development objectives. Many ACP and third countries are concerned that the **MFN clause** requiring the ACP to extend to the EC any trade concessions that it makes to a third country, including developing countries like Brazil and India, will limit the scope and feasibility for concluding south-south accords.

49. Many in the ACP Group consider that if EPAs are to further their development and foster greater regional integration, the already initialed interim EPAs will need to be reviewed to deliver better on development. All parties though remain committed to concluding EPAs.

Recent Commonwealth Secretariat activities on ACP-EU EPA negotiations

50. In cooperation with the ACP Secretariat, COMSEC convened a **High Level Technical Meeting: EPAs – Cape Town, 7-8 April 2008**. The meeting provided an important

opportunity for stakeholders from the ACP regions (selected Trade Ministers, lead-negotiators, capital-based trade officials, Geneva/Brussels based-Ambassadors and academia) for a comparative stocktaking of the status of the EPA negotiations and to strategize on a way forward towards the conclusion date of December 2008 (and end-July 2009 for some sub-regions).

51. The meeting recalled that the process towards meeting the deadline of 31 December 2007 was frantic for most ACP States. 35 out of 77 ACP States initialed interim EPAs. Most other ACP States did not initial due to the presence of clauses they objected to or viewed as contentious. As a result, a multiplicity of different trade regimes between the ACP and the EU now exists. This was viewed as detrimental to the regional integration processes and contrary to the Cotonou objective that EPAs should prioritize regional integration.

52. The importance of ACP countries forging common positions within and across regions was underscored at the meeting. This would entail more coordination among the negotiating regions, particularly with regards to cross-cutting issues such as rules of origin; the MFN clause; safeguards; dispute settlement and new generation issues.

53. There was also general agreement that the development dimension of EPAs should reach beyond financial assistance and aid for trade to include all aspects impinging upon the ability of ACP governments and regions and other stakeholders to restructure their economies and to achieve underlying objectives with regard to employment creation, income growth and poverty alleviation.

54. The meeting concluded that comprehensive EPAs should address supply side constraints and other inhibitors to productivity, competitiveness and export led growth. Aid for trade commitments by EU Member States should focus on these challenges rather than simply on regulatory requirements. The resources need to be provided on a sustainable and predictable basis by the EU Member States and should adequately address not only the above challenges but also the issue of erosion of preferences.

55. *Analytical Studies* were also commissioned by the Secretariat and presented at the above-mentioned meeting. They were also circulated to Commonwealth ACP capitals, Brussels and Geneva based Ambassadors and London High Commissioners. Studies undertaken included the 'Impact on ACP member states of the EC's offer of Duty Free and Quota Free market access for sugar under EPAs'; Studies on Implications for Developing Countries of Bilaterally Negotiated Issues: Government Procurement, Competition Policy & Services; 'Legal Issues under EPA'; An analytical paper on EPA developments by ODI; and a Value Chains Study. Except for the CARIFORUM region, the remaining ACP regions have not committed to negotiating 'trade related issues' in their comprehensive EPAs. These trade related issues include '**Singapore Issues**' of Government Procurement and competition policy whilst for others the inclusion of investment is still being contemplated. The objective of the study commissioned on the implications for developing countries of bilaterally negotiating these contentious issues were to provide ACP member countries with an assessment of the treatment of issues within regional trade agreements as well as the national and regional implications of including it in an EPA with the EU. The paper also provided guidance and recommendations on development-oriented approaches to dealing with the issue within the context of the EPAs.

56. The paper on EPA developments provided a comprehensive analysis of the trade regimes of the ACP that replaced the Cotonou Partnership Agreements, the process and substance in the negotiated EPA texts and highlighted challenges facing the regions which would require support from Europe, particularly on implementation. The report also analyzed the liberalization commitments of the ACP regions and potential revenue losses. A more detailed and comprehensive analysis is currently being undertaken specifically for the Caribbean and Pacific ACP regions. This study will analyse possible implications for regionalism for what has been initiated by ACP regions, some key provisions of the texts, border measures and options for the way forward.

57. The results of these studies contributed towards providing the ACP countries with evidence-based analysis to support their negotiations on critical development-issues under the EPAs.

58. *EPA Goods and Services Offers and Demands*: A two-year technical assistance programme was implemented for the Pacific and Caribbean ACP regions which was designed to assist these regions to prepare the most technical component of the negotiations i.e. their EPA Goods and Services offers and demands and subsequently reflect them as schedules in the texts. The programme resulted in more effective preparation of the demands and offers and built capacity through training of trade officials in the utilization of the datasets and tools which they can utilize in their trade negotiations with other partners.

59. The Secretariat's 2008/2009 work programme on EPAs will continue to focus on the provision of support and assistance to Commonwealth ACP members to facilitate their effective participation in a process to help them secure development-oriented outcomes which are truly reflective of the actual realities of the regions.

60. In collaboration with the ACP Secretariat, the International Trade Centre (Geneva) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the Secretariat will be commissioning objective evidence-based analytical work on critical EPA related issues and facilitating dialogue in the regions where the results will be presented and consensus sought, in addressing imbalances in the Interim and Comprehensive EPA texts.

Other International Trade Issues of Concern to Commonwealth Developing Countries

61. Evidence-based analyses were undertaken on key topical issues determining supply side capacity export response in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Bangladesh. Analytical studies were also undertaken on the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Implications of the EU-India FTA the developing countries and a multi-country study on services trade and domestic regulation. These studies contributed substantial information to raise awareness amongst developing countries, particularly Small States and LDCs, on policy issues pertaining to regional integration initiatives in various Commonwealth regions. The results were disseminated in seminars in Africa and South Asia co-supported by the Secretariat

62. The supply-side capacity building study for Kenya, Uganda, Zambia¹³ and Bangladesh¹⁴ attempts to identify factors determining export success of firms, enquiring why export successes are difficult to replicate.

¹³ By CUTS-International – Nairobi.

¹⁴ By Dr. Selimin Raihan.

63. The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)¹⁵ study examines the trade and welfare prospects for Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from the South Asian regional trading arrangement.

64. The EU-India FTA study¹⁶ provides an objective and comprehensive assessment of the potential implications of EU-India FTA for various developing country groups.

65. In addition, and in view of the WTO impasse, targeted evidence-based analysis has been undertaken on *bilateralism and development* to raise awareness amongst small states and LDC members and help them deal with the resulting challenges and benefit from the opportunities. These analytical studies will continue to be undertaken in 2008/09. Also draft templates, to help with negotiations on ‘Singapore Issues’ of *investment, competition and government procurement*, will also be prepared to assist and provide options to Small States and LDC members on negotiating based on their level of development and level of openness.

66. The Secretariat is also undertaking an analytical study to assist Commonwealth small states to better understand why they might not be doing as well as they could in securing their desired outcomes from negotiations so as to facilitate their beneficial participation in the global economy. The results of the study are expected to assist them to adapt their policies, structures and tactics so as to enhance their ability to succeed in advancing their interests.

67. The Secretariat will also be undertaking some analytical studies to assist Commonwealth small states and LDCs adapt their trade policies to changing dynamics in the global environment. These will include studies on trade and climate change, China’s policy and its effects on Africa and the impact of sustained high oil and food prices on trade flows.

68. The Secretariat has been providing technical assistance to member states to improve their capacity to trade on the international market. This assistance has been specifically aimed at: (i) *Formulation of National Export Strategies* (Tonga, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada; Commonwealth of Dominica; Samoa amongst others); (ii) *Tourism* (Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada) – apart from elaborating strategies and action plans, the Secretariat is focusing on ways to build linkages between the tourism sector and other sectors of the economy so as to ensure that the sector contributes to dent poverty; (iii) *Trade in Services*: (Saint. Lucia, Mauritius, Jamaica, Caribbean Exports); and (iv) *Trade Facilitation*: Trade facilitation is viewed as a very important component in improving a country’s trade competitiveness. In addition to the Handbook on Trade Facilitation the following projects were undertaken: Benchmarking study on Jamaica’s Trade Facilitation systems; Port Benchmarking study in Seychelles; and Dwell time study in Mauritius.

¹⁵ By CUTS-International, India.

¹⁶ By Sussex-CARIS.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

69. Given the importance of trade for the economic development of small states, Ministers may wish to consider the following recommendations:

70. On Multilateral Trade, Ministers are invited to:

- ❖ **Recognise** that for the Doha Round to deliver on development, a fair and balanced outcome of negotiations is required which should among others: 1) incorporate genuine Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF) market access for LDCs to all developed country markets; 2) provide meaningful and effective special and differential treatment; 3) preserve the **positive** ‘early harvests’ made in all the areas of the talks; and 4) Give priority to finding fair solutions to specific issues of particular interest to small states such as bananas, fisheries, etc.;
- ❖ **Call** for agreement on appropriate safeguards for preference-dependent economies which mitigates the impact of the erosion of long-standing trade preferences; and

71. On Regional Trade Integration, Ministers are invited to:

- ❖ **Note** the evolving trends of bilateral agreements which are occurring in the backdrop of stalled multilateral trade talks
- ❖ **Recognise** that for EPAs to deliver on sustainable development, the substance of the accords should promote development of ACP States, contribute to poverty reduction, help ACP countries better integrate into the world economy and promote, not undermine, regional integration processes
- ❖ **Recognise** that the development dimension of EPAs should reach beyond financial assistance and aid for trade support and include all aspects impinging upon the ability of ACP countries and regions and other stakeholders to restructure their economies and to achieve underlying objectives with regard to employment creation, income growth and poverty alleviation
- ❖ **Note** the need for more coordination among the negotiating regions, particularly as regards cross-cutting issues such as rules of origin; the MFN clause; safeguards; dispute settlement and new generation issues
- ❖ **Call** on EU Member States to provide Aid for Trade resources on a sustainable and predictable basis which adequately addresses challenges faced by ACPs in implementing EPA commitments and issues of preference erosion.

72. On other international trade issues of concern to Commonwealth Small States, Ministers are invited to:

- ❖ **Note** other global developments which are also having an impact on Commonwealth Small States' trade such as rising cost of food and fuel
- ❖ **Note** and monitor trade and climate change mitigation measures proposed by developed countries which could have a direct impact on imports from Commonwealth small states

- ❖ **Note** that other regional trade integration initiatives are proliferating with possible implications for Commonwealth small states.

SELECTED TRADE POLICY RESEARCH IN 2007-08

Bilateralism and Development: Emerging Trade Patterns, edited by Veniana Qalo, published by Cameron May, London, April 2008. Drawing together a number of papers prepared/commissioned by the Secretariat, this book allows the reader to get an informed perspective on the evolving trends of bilateral agreements in the backdrop of stalled multilateral trade talks.

Global Rice and Agricultural Trade Liberalisation: Poverty and Welfare Implications for South Asia, edited by Mohammad Razzaque and Edwin Laurent, Published by Academic Foundation (New Delhi) and Commonwealth Secretariat, London, January 2008. It provides empirical case studies to assess the poverty and welfare consequences of rice and agricultural trade liberalisation on different population groups in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Commodity Prices and Development, edited by Roman Grynberg and Samantha Newton, published by Oxford University Press, January 2008. By empirically examining the hypothesis of secular decline in relative commodity prices, this volume assesses the implications of commodity dependence for development.

Navigating New Waters: A Reader on ACP-EU Relations (vol 1&2), edited by Sanoussi Bilal and Roman Grynberg, published by Commonwealth Secretariat. This is a comprehensive publication, containing reviews on all aspects of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between the ACP and the EU.

After Hong Kong: Some Key Trade Issues for Developing Countries, Edited by Ivan Mbirimi. It deals with three important issues, viz. aid for trade, duty-free, quota-free market access for LDCs, and global cotton subsidies.

Trading on Commonwealth Ties: A Review of the Structure of Commonwealth Trade and the Scope for Developing Linkages and Trade in the Commonwealth – by Chris Milner, published by Commonwealth Secretariat. It reviews the intra-Commonwealth trade and provides recommendations for expanding intra-Commonwealth trade realistically.

Trade and Development in the Context of EPA Negotiations, prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat. It analyses potential welfare, export, regional trade and poverty implications of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations for Cameroon.

Legal Opinion on the General Preferential Regime Applicable to Imports of Goods Originating in ACP Non-LDC Failing the Conclusion and Entry Into Force of EPAs by 1 January 2008, by Commonwealth Secretariat Staff. It provided much needed clarity with regard to the obligations of the EU in light of the European Community Law on international agreements involving the EC.

Economic Partnership Agreements: Implications from Some Alternative Scenarios, by Selim Raihan, Mohammed A. Razzaque and Edwin Laurent. This paper empirically

examines the welfare effects of different EPA outcomes for a number of individual ACP countries.

The Rise of Brazil, India, China and South Africa (BICS) in World Economy and Potential Implications, by RIS, New Delhi, India. Comprises a set of papers which assesses the implications of the rise of these economies on other developing countries.

An Agenda for Future Action by African Countries in Response to the Rise of Brazil, India, China and South Africa (BICS) by Michael Davenport, UK. *It focuses on Africa's strategy to maximise benefits from its increased interactions with BICS.*

Creating Country Trade Negotiating Strategies: A Handbook by Overseas Development Institute (ODI). This Handbook – with country case studies on Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vanuatu – provides a primer for policy makers and stakeholders to help design viable and coherent national trade negotiating strategies.

EU-India FTA: Potential Implications for Developing Countries by Sussex-CARIS. It is to undertake an objective and comprehensive assessment of the potential implications of EU-India FTA on various developing country groups.

Textiles and Clothing Trade after MFA: Emerging Trade and Issues, by Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This study is to examine the trends in textiles and clothing trade with a view to assessing the performance of individual countries following the abolition of the Multi-fibre Arrangement (MFA) quotas.

South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), by CUTS-International, India. The papers have examined the trade and welfare prospects of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from the South Asian regional trading arrangement.

Aid for Trade and Supply Response by Dirk Willem te Velde, ODI. It empirically examines the relationship between aid and trade and aid and other development indicators based on which lessons for 'Aid for Trade' is derived.

Measuring Aid for Trade by Liz Turner, ODI. As under WTO definitions, the scope of Aid for Trade (AfT) support is quite broad, this study proposes and applies a methodology to Tanzania for separating and quantifying AfT from other financial flows.

Supply-side Capacity and Export Response by CUTS-Nairobi. Country papers on Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia attempt to identify factors determining export success of firms, enquiring why export successes are difficult to replicate – ongoing.

LDCs Land-Locked Developing Countries, and Small States in the Global Economic System, by Professor T N Srinivasan. By addressing the problems of LDCs and Small States and emphasising extended cooperation and support from developed countries, this paper was the theme paper at the Conference on Global Partnership for Development, which the Commonwealth Secretariat, in collaboration with others including the Department of Commerce, Government of India and CUTS International, co-hosted in Delhi on 11-13 August 2008.

Services Trade and Domestic Regulation, by CUTS-International and Prof Rupa Chanda. Country case studies on Bangladesh, the Gambia, Jamaica, Kenya, and Zambia highlight the challenges of services trade liberalisation in the absence of an adequate and suitable regulatory framework.

Temporary Migration and Development: A Review of the Evidence and Policy Options by Dirk Willem te Velde, ODI. This paper reviews the evidence concerning the debate surrounding migration and development and provides a way forward for making temporary migration a tool for development.

International Migration and Development: Case Studies on India, Eastern and Southern African Countries, and the Pacific by Pranav Kumar, David On'golo and Veniana Qalo. These papers examine the role of international migration and provide recommendations to make international migration more development-friendly.

Support for Commonwealth Developing Countries in the WTO by Rashid Kaukab. This paper seeks to assess the needs of Commonwealth developing country members in the WTO, evaluating the support and assistance they actually receive, including that provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat, and determining how best to improve and streamline its own support.

Global Value Chains and the Impact on Economic growth in Developing Countries and the Implications for the ACP by Alice Clarke. The findings obtained so far from past research on value chain analysis are reviewed to help understand why some countries have benefited from globalization.

Impact of EU Commercial Fisheries Policies and Practice on International Trade in Fisheries Products, by Marine Resources & Fisheries Consultants (MRAG), Natural Resources Institute and Cambridge Resource Economics. The study focuses on finding out if EU fisheries policies have created trade distortions in international trade and the likely impacts of WTO and EPA negotiations on trade in fisheries products.

Study on the WTO Law of Subsidies Relevant to Fisheries: Possible WTO Challenge on 'access fees' as 'subsidies' by the World Trade Institute, Bern, Switzerland. It provides various possibilities of a challenge being brought to the WTO DSB against several large WTO members that pertains to the trade-distorting aspect of its 'fisheries access fees and license-fee payments' arrangements and their potential implications for the developing fisheries coastal states, including ACP countries.

Preference Erosion and the Indirect Impacts of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on the Competitiveness of the ACP Tuna Processing Sector by Liam Campling. The study assesses the effects of trade in fisheries as a result of the changes in the EU's GSP schemes and potential WTO Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiation outcomes for the relevant sectors while identifying policy implications for interested ACP countries.

Review of EPA Development Issues by Paul Goodison. The paper reviews the scope of the development dimension of EPAs and puts forward a number of recommendations for making EPAs development-friendly.

EPAs and Services – State of Play and Critical Issues for 2008 and Beyond by Gideon Rabinowitz, CUTS International. It assesses the state of play in EPA services talks, identifies the critical issues facing the ACP, and makes a range of recommendations to achieve the development objective of the on-going negotiations.

Implication for Developing Countries of Bilaterally Negotiating Issues of Government Procurement by Stephen Woolcock, London School of Economics. This paper aimed to provide the ACP countries with an assessment of the treatment of government procurement within regional trade agreements and provided guidance and recommendations on development-oriented approaches to dealing with the issue within the context of the EPA.

Implications for Developing Countries of Bilaterally Negotiating Intellectual Property Rights Issues by Dyebo Shabalala of Centre for International and Environmental Law (CIEL-Geneva). This paper reviewed the issue of intellectual property rights in the context of regional trading arrangements and provided recommendations on development-oriented approaches to dealing with the issue within the context of the EPA.

Development-oriented Approaches to Negotiating Investment Issues within Regional Trade Agreements: Commonwealth Investment Template Model by Professor Anthony VanDuzer, Professor Penelope Simons and Professor Graham Mayeda of the University of Ottawa, Canada. This paper describes the salient features of investment negotiations and attempts to develop a development-friendly investment template that can be used by developing countries.

State of play in EPA Negotiations: A Review of the Current EPA Texts by the Overseas Development Institute. This report compares the EPA texts for each of the six negotiating regions, identifies the severity of the demands from the ACP with regards to the liberalization timeframes, MFN and safeguard clauses, competition and investment provisions, and provides a factual snapshot that ACP negotiators could use to help plan their strategy.

Legal Issues under EPA by Lorand Bartel. This paper provides legal advice on the status of the initialed EPAs and legal options and constraints on renegotiating contentious issues within these agreements.

Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States, Economic Paper No. 80, Edited by Janet Strachan and Constance Vigilance, published by the Commonwealth Secretariat. It contains a set of five papers covering different aspects of sustainable development in small island developing countries.

The Emerging Debt Problems of Small States, by Dinesh Dodhia. Thirteen small, middle-income Caribbean economies are among the most indebted thirty emerging market economies in the world. Similar conditions apply to a number of other small economies in Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. This study examines the history of this indebtedness, its likely causes in different economies, and prospects for dealing with the debt problem in the future.

Trade Facilitation- A Handbook for Trade Negotiators by Vinod Rege. Trade facilitation has formed part of the WTO work Programme since 1996, when the Singapore Ministerial Conference instructed the WTO Goods Council to initiate its analysis and examination of four subjects: trade Facilitation, Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition, and Transparency in Government Procurement. This Handbook provide suggestions on how the negotiation approaches adopted under WTO Agreements

**FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH ACTIVITIES
ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Commonwealth assistance supports member states in negotiating support, and advancing international trade and economic agenda in international settings:

ANALYTICAL STUDIES:

- Erosion of Long-Standing Preference to Trade Liberalization on selected Tropical Products
- Agriculture in Doha - Issues for LDCs and small states
- Reviewing NAMA-issues for LDCs and Small States
- Reviewing LDC modalities on services and assessing services exporting opportunities in LDCs and small states
- Reviewing of Aid for Trade and Implications for LDCs and Small States
- Other Multilateral Trade Negotiation-related studies

- ACP-EU EPA Negotiation related studies (ACP Secretariat/Commonwealth Sec collaboration)
- Pacific Single Market and Economy Study
- Non-Tariff Barriers in South Asian Regional Trade and Non-Tariff impediments to trade of the Commonwealth developing countries

- EU-India FTA and potential implications on other developing countries

- IUU Fisheries Study

- Commonwealth Investment Template

- Development-oriented Approaches to incorporating Competition Policy provisions within Regional Trade Agreements

- Issues Paper on Feasibility of Drafting Commonwealth Competition Template Bill (ITRC/LCAD/SASD Collaboration)

- Cost and Benefits Analysis of Negotiating Government Procurement within RTAs

- Analytical Study on Overcoming trade-related supply side constraints (CUTS-Nairobi)

- Value Chains Analysis for Africa
- Rise in Commodity Prices and Implications for LDCs and small States
- Textile and Clothing Study - post-MFA
- Implications on Developing Countries of the Rise of Brazil, China, India and South Africa
- Trade and Climate Change Study - Implications on Developing Countries Trade of Proposed 'Border Measures'
- Assessing Trends in US and EU FTAs of TRIPS plus commitments and its implications on Commonwealth small states & LDCs

- HOT TRADE TOPIC STUDIES

- Services Trade and Domestic Regulation
- Country Trade Negotiating Strategies and Implications for EPAs
- EU-India FTA and implications for other developing countries
- Textile and Clothing trade post-MFA phase out

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS:

- Comsec/CUTS collaboration: Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy Training Programme
- Comsec/RIS collaboration: India-Africa Institutional Cooperation on Trade Policy Issues
- National/Regional Consultations to present/review Draft Commonwealth Investment Template
- Caribbean Regional Workshop on Tourism Competitiveness Through Training and Skills Development
- Pan-Commonwealth Conference on Professional Services Export Trade.
- Brainstorming Meeting on Issues Paper and TOR for Draft Commonwealth Competition Bill (ITRC/LCAD/SASD collaboration)
- Conference to Assess DDA Negotiations progress and strategizing on a way-forward

- Conferences/Workshops on Multilateral Trade Issues in London & Brussels
- Two regional conferences/workshops on multilateral trade issues on issues of relevance to Commonwealth countries

- WTO Public Forum in September 2008
- In-country awareness raising Meetings for Parliamentarians on Implications of multilateral trade agreements (4 countries/regions)
- Comsec/ITC Collaboration: Meetings on Business Implications of WTO and EPA negotiations for ECOWAS, CEMAC, Pacific and Caribbean regions

- Comsec/ICTSD Collaboration: Fisheries Meeting in Namibia, end August 2008

- Regional Workshops/Seminars on EU-India FTA and Rise of BICs, Brussels & South Asia

- South Asian Economic Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 2008

- National Export Strategy Experience Sharing workshop –London –September 2008