

Joint Statement – Trade Facilitation Assistance

Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, 8 July 2013, Geneva

We issue the following statement on behalf of 27 governments and organisations. Taken together, our support for trade facilitation programs has global reach. It has assisted developing and least-developed countries in different regions to achieve significant results – cutting border clearance times, increasing revenue collection, and simplifying procedures for traders.

Trade facilitation reform delivers tangible benefits to economic growth and development. The widespread recognition of these benefits is reflected in the pursuit of trade facilitation initiatives in many developing and least-developed countries and regional cooperation bodies around the world. A WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement would add significant momentum to these initiatives, leading to even greater reductions in trade costs.

Because of the tangible economic benefits for developing and least-developed countries, we attach particular importance to assisting in the implementation of trade facilitation reform. A total of more than \$381 million was committed to trade facilitation programs in 2011. This represents an increase of 365% (in real terms) of Official Development Assistance to trade facilitation compared to the 2002-2005 average. Since 2006, over \$1.2 billion in ODA for trade facilitation has been disbursed. This underlines the strong and sustained support globally for trade facilitation efforts.

A WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement would build on the progress made to date. We recognise that there are WTO Members that will require support to fully implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, complementing the support provided to date. Developing and least-developed WTO Members can be confident of our ongoing support for their implementation of a WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Statement issued on behalf of:

WTO Members	Organisations
Australia	African Development Bank
Canada	Asian Development Bank
Denmark	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
European Union	Inter-American Development Bank
Finland	International Monetary Fund
France	Islamic Development Bank Group
Germany	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Japan	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Netherlands	United Nations Development Programme
New Zealand	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Norway	World Bank Group
Sweden	World Customs Organization
Switzerland	
United Kingdom	
United States	