

The WTO and the Sustainable Development Goals

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**Workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals, Addis Action
Agenda and the Aid for Trade Initiative**

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Key features

- **Adopted by UN General Assembly at a leaders summit**
(25 to 27 September 2015)
 - Some 160 heads of state and government in attendance
 - WTO represented by DG Azevêdo
- **New global development agenda for the next 15 years**
 - Result of nearly 3 years of negotiations and open global consultations
- Overarching goal is to **end poverty** by 2030
- Seeks to **build on the MDGs**
- Calls for “**universal**” and “**integrated**” action
- **Multi-stakeholder** involvement

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Some background

Rio+20 conference (June 2012)



- Original proposal for SDGs by Colombia and Guatemala
- Consensus on “importance” and “utility” of SDGs
- Agreement on:
 - **Criteria** for SDGs (e.g., action oriented, universally applicable, aspirational, easy to communicate)
 - “Inclusive” and “transparent” **intergovernmental process** led by an Open Working Group composed of 30 seats (shared by UN member states)

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Main elements

Preamble and
Declaration

SDGs

(17 goals and 169 targets)

Means of
Implementation

Follow-up
and Review

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Declaration and Means of Implementation

Declaration

- Action plan for **people, planet, prosperity** and **peace** implemented through **collaborative partnership**
- **Poverty** eradication is greatest global challenge

Means of Implementation

- Need for revitalized “**Global Partnership**”
- **Trade**
 - Engine for inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction
 - Call on WTO members to conclude Doha negotiations
 - Importance of trade-related capacity building

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SDGs



Key trade messages from the SDGs

Trade is a key tool to achieve sustainable development

Multilateral cooperation under the WTO is the preeminent channel to ensure that trade plays its full part in sustainable development

Priority attention must be given to the trade needs of the poorest countries

Aligning trade policies and other SD policies offers win-win opportunities

Agenda 2030 focuses on helping the poorest countries benefit from trade...



... and on aligning specific trade policies with sustainable development

- Trade restrictions and distortions affecting world agricultural markets
(SDG target 2.b)
- Fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing
(SDG target 14.6)
- Use of flexibilities in support of public health (Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health)
(SDG target 3.b)

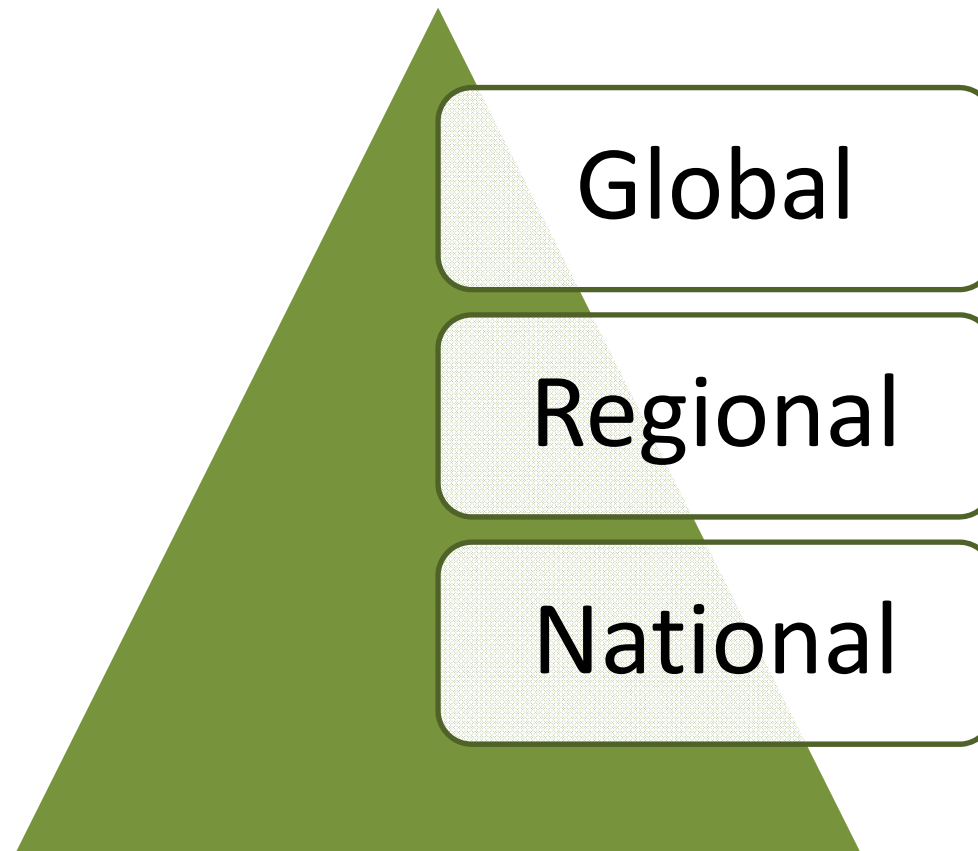
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Trade policy is relevant to many other SDG targets

- Water and sanitation related activities (water desalination, water efficiency, wastewater management)
- Energy technologies
- Financial services
- Trans-border and other infrastructure
- Increase economic productivity through diversification

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Follow-up and review



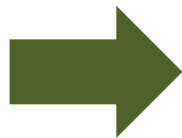
Work is under way to define a **framework of indicators** to measure progress towards SDG targets by March 2016

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Concluding thoughts on Aid for Trade

AfT is a key tool to maximize the contribution of trade to the achievement of the SDGs

- Measuring progress towards AfT target (and the contribution of AfT to sustainable development)
- Fostering two-way communication between review mechanisms in Agenda 2030 (national, regional, global) and trade and development community



Global Review of Aid for Trade