



# **TRALAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE WTO/EPA ISSUES**

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# KEY QUESTIONS

- **IMPORTANCE OF PREFERENCES GIVEN THEIR EROSION DUE TO LIBERALIZATION**
- **UNILATERALISM vs. MULTILATERALISM**
- **UNCERTAINTY vs. CERTAINTY & PREDICTABILITY**
- **APPROPRIATE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR AN EPA**
- **EPA - REGIONAL INTEGRATION LINKAGES**
- **EPA - DDA LINKAGES**
- **EXPERIENCE OF CHALLENGES BY WTO MEMBERS ON**
  - **BANANAS**
  - **FISH PRODUCTS**
  - **SUGAR**

# EPA NEGOTIATIONS – KEY ISSUES ON TRADE

- INTRODUCTION OF RECIPROCITY
- REPLACEMENT OF CURRENT TRADE ARRANGEMENT WITH WTO COMPATIBLE AGREEMENT - GATT ART. 24
- GRANTING MARKET ACCESS TO EU – NEW ELEMENT FOR ACP INCLUDING LDCs
- USING CURRENT PREFERENCES AS BASIS FOR FUTURE MARKET ACCESS
- REVIEW OF RULES OF ORIGIN
- DEVELOPMENT CENTRED

# WTO NEGOTIATIONS - SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES

- DDA DEVELOPMENT FOCUS
- TARIFF LIBERALIZATION NEGOTIATIONS
- PROPOSED FORMULAE
- SUBSIDIES
- SENSITIVE AND SPECIAL PRODUCTS
- DOMESTIC SUPPORT
- RULES :GATT ARTICLE 24
- SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS

# CONCERNS

- **FOR PREFERENCE DEPENDENT ECONOMIES, EROSION OF PREFERENCES THROUGH MFN REDUCTIONS**
- **IMPACT OF SUBSIDIES ON DC/LDCS EXPORTS E.G COTTON**
- **IMPACT OF RECIPROCITY**
- **LOSS OF MARKETS SHARE – TUNA**
- **WELFARE, EMPLOYMENT AND REVENUE EFFECTS**
- **NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAT ADDRESSES DEVELOPEMNT CONCERNS**

# REGIONAL INTERESTS

- **ENHANCED MARKET ACCESS- NTBs, SPS, TBT ESP. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**
- **CERTAINTY & PREDICTABILITY THROUGH LEGALLY BINDING COMMITMENTS**
- **FOR LDCs BOUND DUTY & QUOTA FREE MARKET ACCESS**
- **POLICY SPACE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**
- **USE DDA NEGOTIATIONS TO LEVERAGE ACTION FROM OTHER AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS TO GIVE MEANING TO DEVELOPMENT DIMENSION OF THE DOHA ROUND**

# Develop own solutions

- **Develop strategies to reduce adjustment costs**
- **Identify and focus on supply side constraints & required action to;**
  - **Improve competitiveness**
  - **Improve regulatory environment**
  - **Improve business / investment environment**
  - **Increase trade**
- **Deeper regional integration**
- **Alternative markets (south - south trade)**
- **Stronger linkages between national/regional development plan/strategy vs. EPA and DDA negotiating objectives**

# TRADE HUB ACTIVITIES

## TRADE FACILITATION

- **Customs - simplification and harmonization of procedures, Single Administrative Document**
- **Transport- harmonization of procedure and reduction of transaction costs , development of transport corridors**

## TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING AND POLICY

- **TCB and improving regulatory and policy environment to make trade rules work for business (investment environment, export diversification, institutional support – business and inter governmental)**

## TRADE COMPETITIVENESS

- **Support at firm level to improve product quality and find new export markets, making trade happen through trade deals**
- **Advisory services on AGOA, including developing national AGOA strategies, trade missions etc.**





**THANK YOU**

# PREFERRED MARGINS

## Preferential margin and volume growth between 1988 and 1997

	Import value in 1997 (mio ECU)	preferential margin in 1996	preferential margin in 2000	1988/97 volume growth rate
<b>Agricultural products</b>				
I Live animals; animal products	871	7,4%	6,7%	70,9%
II Vegetable products	2338	2,4%	1,4%	1,8%
III Animal or Vegetable Fats, Oils, and Waxes	265	3,7%	2,4%	-12,7%
IV Prepared foodstuffs, Beverages; tobacco	2464	8,3%	6,6%	49,0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5937</b>	<b>5,7%</b>	<b>4,5%</b>	<b>25,9%</b>