

# ***Summary Feedback: Information Sharing on Trade Strategy***

Country: **Switzerland**

Place: **Geneva**

Date: **March 18, 2010**

Total Number of Participants: **155**

## 1. Sectoral/Cross-cutting issues

- A request for major collaboration of trade and health issues through partnerships with the World Health Organization
- Greater emphasis on the role of trade in service.
- Major emphasis on gender
- Major emphasis on new issues including trade and climate, and the effects of the financial crisis
- Need for a carbon neutral strategy
- Greater emphasis on trade and climate change and on how climate change will affect poverty.
- A major focus on market access

## 2. Collaboration

- Need to avoid duplication and confusion between the trade program of the World Bank and the trade programs of other institutions, such as the International Trade Centre
- A major role for the World Bank Group to participate more effectively in technical assistance programs like the Enhanced Integrated Framework
- Partnership with the World Trade Organization on ways to meet importing country standards
- Greater coherence on trade assistance in countries
- Reduce administrative constraints to partnership collaborations
- Major collaboration with the World Trade Organization
- Greater coordination on technical assistance missions
- The need for assistance based on effective coordination, complementary and coherent interventions, through, for example, the use of joint partnerships and predictable transfers

## 3. Private sector support

- Greater assistance to developing countries for absorbing and obtaining the transfer of technology
- Greater emphasis on small and medium business assistance
- Greater emphasis on export market identification
- Greater emphasis on the role of technology transfer and adaptation to technology
- Look at the effects of industrial policy, including temporary support to producers for sustaining competition

- More work on private-public partnerships
  - Major assistance to small-scale farmers and their ability to bargain with multinational corporations working in the agro-business
4. Trade facilitation
- Greater assistance to reduce the costs of logistics
  - Greater emphasis on how to reduce costs and time with customs procedures. The World Bank Group has done a lot of studies on best practices, and we would like to have seminars and workshops on these practices so the business community will know and will push the government on trade facilitation
5. Data development
- The presence of several gaps in the literature and in the data. World Bank literature and data are generally of high quality but are ad-hoc exercises, which are rarely repeated and thus are time-bound or country limited
  - More data and more updated data for small economies to inform policy decisions
6. Doha
- Greater attention to the potential impact of the future Doha Agreement on poverty
  - Look into the future Trade Related Technical Assistance agenda that will follow from the conclusion of the Doha Development Round
7. Other Comments
- The need for assistance that should not lead to greater indebtedness of the country but should instead lead to pragmatic interventions commensurate with the level of development
  - The need for a stronger link between trade and poverty reduction.
  - The need for a better understanding of the focal person in the World Bank Group on specific issues
  - Increase the provision of realistic advice to governments of developing countries
  - Better monitoring and evaluation
  - More focus on least developed countries
  - Major explanation of how the trade agenda will fit into the IDA 16 agenda.
  - Greater assistance and coordination for mainstreaming trade and Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
  - Major clarity on how the strategy differs from the current World Bank Group work in trade