



**Economic  
Commission  
for Africa**



**Government of  
Tunisie**



**United  
Nations  
Development  
Programme**



**African  
Development  
Bank**



**African  
Union**

## **High Level Brainstorming Meeting for African Trade Negotiators and Officials**

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### **Aide-Memoire and Provisional Agenda**

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Jointly Organized by

**The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Union (AU)**

In Collaboration with

**The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Third World Network, International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP), the Southern African Trade Research Network (SATRN) and ENDA Tiers-Monde**

**25-26 November 2004**

## I. Background

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The General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) adopted on 1 August 2004 a Decision on the “**Doha Work Programme**”, which delineates a number of “**Frameworks**” to be used in defining “**Modalities**” for negotiations in the current trade talks in the WTO. These agreed frameworks are the result of intense negotiations within the Membership of the WTO and a culmination of many months of uncertainty as to the future of Doha Development Programme and more importantly as to whether the stalled Cancun trade talks would at all be revived. The new accord reached in Geneva, therefore, has breathed a new life into the global trading system.

The “July Package”, as generally known, provides frameworks for defining “modalities” for negotiations on agriculture; non-agricultural market access; as well as modalities for negotiations on trade facilitation; and recommendations for moving forward negotiations on trade in services. The Decision also contains proposals for further negotiations on a number of other issues, such as the developmental dimensions of the Doha Development Programme (special and differential treatment, implementation-related issues and concerns, technical assistance, and special issues of Least Developed Countries); the cotton sectoral initiative; and other issues, including rules, trade and environment, outstanding trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) issues, and dispute settlement mechanism.

It is broadly acknowledged that agreement on these frameworks is only the first stage towards negotiating and agreeing on “modalities” to further guide negotiations on various aspects of the Doha Development programme. African countries have been extensively engaged prior to Cancun and after Cancun in the negotiations, leading up to the adoption of the July Package. Indeed, several workshops, seminars and meetings were held prior to Cancun and after Cancun to provide African countries with an opportunity to synchronize their negotiating positions in the Doha Round. In the post Cancun period, such meetings have included the “*Post-Cancun Expert Group Meeting for African Trade Negotiators and Officials*” jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union in Accra, Ghana, November 2003, the “*Kigali Conference of African Ministers of Trade*”, organized by the African Union in May 2004 and the “*Group of Ninety (G-90) Ministers of Trade Meeting*” held in Mauritius in July 2004. Research papers and studies as well as advisory services provided by international, regional and sub-regional organizations also contributed to assist African countries to present “*informed proposals*” in these negotiations. The technical workshops, seminars and meetings organized during this period also played their role.

These meetings were extremely useful in assisting African countries to solidify and crystallize their negotiating positions in the WTO. Furthermore, during the final stages of the negotiations in Geneva of the July Package, African countries depicted a significant degree of “solidarity” in articulating their positions, which mainly contributed to some of their concerns being reflected in the final outcome of the July Package. But most of all, it was the dedication of the African trade negotiators, whose untiring efforts knew no bounds, that credit is most due.

## II. The Objectives of the Meeting

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The purpose of the **“WTO Post-Framework Meeting for African Trade Negotiators and Officials”** is to bring together African trade negotiators and officials, as well as trade experts from selected institutions around the world, to: undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the outcome and implications of July Package for African countries; assist countries in the region to develop and refine their strategies for further negotiations under the DDA; to identify key areas of importance to African countries in the various “modalities” to be negotiated, particularly for agriculture and non-agricultural market access and any other areas; to develop suggestions on modalities for agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) as well as for negotiations on trade facilitation, based on research to be provided by international, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as research networks; and to map out a strategy for future negotiations.

This Meeting will be preceded by a **“Retreat of African Ambassadors and Officials”** based in Geneva and Brussels to be jointly organized by the African Union (AU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to exchange views on the outcome of the July Package; evaluate the outcome of July Package against common negotiating positions agreed in the Kigali Declaration and Consensus as well as the Mauritius Platform of the G-90 Trade Ministers; and identify immediate research and technical advisory needs of African countries in the post-Framework stage of the negotiations.

## III. Participation

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The meeting, which will be jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank and the African Union, is directed at African trade negotiators based in Geneva and Brussels as well as the capitals, African research institutions, civil society groups, the private sector, and regional economic communities. Accordingly, participation will be expected from trade representatives based in Geneva and Brussels, trade representatives based in the capitals, representatives of private sector, civil society, research institutions and African trade networks and representatives of regional economic communities.

The collaborating agencies will include the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the World Trade Organization (WTO); International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP); the Southern Africa Trade and Research Network (SATRN); the Third World Network (TWN) and ENDA third world

#### IV. Provisional Agenda

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1. Analysis of the implications of the outcome of the July Package for African countries and the multilateral trading system;
2. Exchange of views of developing strategies for further negotiations under the DDA;
3. Identifying key areas of importance to African countries in the various “modalities” to be negotiated, particularly for agriculture and non-agricultural market access and any other areas;
4. Exchange of views on developing modalities for agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) as well as for negotiations on trade facilitation, based on research to be provided by international, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as research networks;
5. Discuss the aspects of the developmental dimensions of the Doha Development Programme, focusing on such issues as special and differential treatment provisions in the WTO Agreements and implementation-related issues and concerns;
6. Identification of the research needs of African countries in order to provide effective support to trade negotiators and officials; and
7. Developing a roadmap for future activities in support of African countries in the negotiations

## V. Date and Venue

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The Meeting is scheduled to take place from 25-26 November 2004, at a venue to be determined in due course.

Responses from the prospective participants should be addressed to:

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## VI. Programme of activities

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Thursday 25 November 2004

8:30 – 9:00            **Registration**

9:00 – 9:45            **Opening Ceremony**

- Remarks by Mr. Ousmane Kane, Vice-President, the African Development Bank (ADB)
- Remarks by Mr. Alberto Campeas, Director, Development Division, WTO, Geneva
- Remarks by H. E. Ambassador M. Nwagwu, the Coordinator of the African WTO Geneva Group
- Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Remarks by Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Welcome Address by the Honorable Minister of Trade, Mr. Mondher Zenaidi, Republic of Tunisia

9:45 – 10:00          Coffee Break

**Session I:**            **Overview of the outcome of the July Package and Implications for Africa**

*Chairperson:*        H.E. Habib Mansour, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Geneva

10:00 – 10:15        **Presentation:** The July Package and Africa's Major Concerns

**Presenter:** Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

**Discussant:** World Trade Organization (WTO)

10:15 – 11:00        General Discussion

**Session II:**          **Developmental Dimensions of the Doha Development Agenda**

*Chairperson:*

11:00 - 11:30        **Presentation:** Key Challenges for Africa in the Negotiations on the Development Dimensions of the Doha Agenda

**Presenter:** Chairman of the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development

**Discussant:** UNCTAD

**11:30 - 12:30** General Discussion

**12:30 - 14:00** Lunch Break

**Session III: Agricultural Trade Negotiation**

*Chairperson:*

**14:00 - 14:25 Presentation: Key Issues for Africa In Agricultural Negotiations**

**Presenter:** The Focal Point on Agriculture of the Africa WTO Geneva Group

**14:25 - 16:00** General Discussion

**16:00 - 16:15** Coffee Break

**Session IV: Africa and Negotiations on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA)**

*Chairperson:*

**16:15 - 16:35 Presentation: Key Issues for Africa in NAMA Negotiations**

**Presenter:** The Focal Point on NAMA of the Africa WTO Geneva Group

**16:35 - 18:00** General Discussion

Friday 26 November 2004

**Session V: Trade Facilitation**

*Chairperson:*

**9:00 - 9:20**            **Presentation:** Suggestions for Trade Facilitation Negotiations

**Presenter:** Focal Point of the African Group in Geneva on Trade Facilitation

**9:20 - 10:00**            General discussion

**10:00 - 10:15**            Coffee Break

**Session VI: Negotiation Strategies**

*Chairperson:*            *Ablasse Ouedraogo, ADB*

**10:15 - 10:45**            Panel session

**10:45 - 12:00**            General Discussion

**12:30 - 14:00**            Lunch Break

**16:00 - 17:30**            Discussions on Recommendations of the Meeting

**17:30 - 18:00**            **Closing Ceremony**