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WTO LAUNCHES SECOND GLOBAL REVIEW OF AID FOR TRADE

The World Trade Organization (WTO), its members and key international aid and development organizations will conduct the Second Global Review of Aid for Trade –aimed at expanding the trade capacity of developing countries—on 6-7 July 2009 in Geneva.

The Second Global Review will evaluate progress made since the First Review, held in November 2007, and scrutinize how Aid for Trade is being put into operation in the field. Progress in securing additional, predictable financing will be discussed and views exchanged on how aid flows can be maintained against the backdrop of the global recession.

The four key objectives of this Second Global Review are:

- **Moving from commitment to implementation:** The meeting will assess how is Aid for Trade making good on its promise as the agenda moves from commitment of funds (increase of 10% annually since 2005 and funding pledges today standing at more than \$25 billion annually; non-concessional loans add an additional \$27 billion) to implementation in concrete project at multilateral, regional and national level.
- **Integrating trade in national and regional development strategies:** The meeting will analyze how can trade be better integrated into core national and regional development strategies, what are the obstacles and how this process can be encouraged.
- **Sustaining aid flows during the global economic downturn:** This Review will study the impact that the global economic downturn is having on Aid for Trade flows, how can donors be persuaded to engage long term through additional and predictable financing, and what role can emerging South-South donors play in Aid for Trade.
- **Assessing the effectiveness of Aid for Trade:** The Geneva gathering will try to find what conclusions are emerging on the results and effectiveness of Aid for Trade so far. The second joint OECD/WTO monitoring report "Aid for Trade at a Glance", to be published coinciding with the Second Global Review, highlights that the Aid for Trade initiative has already made remarkable progress.

“The International Trade Centre (ITC) is 100% Aid for Trade; there are five building blocks on which Aid for Trade is built: trade policy and regulations; trade development; building productive capacity; trade-related adjustment; and trade-related infrastructure. And three of those blocks are related to our



three strategic objectives in ITC, so we're extremely well aligned to the objectives of Aid for Trade", said ITC Executive Director Ms. Patricia R. Francis.

"ITC is one of the players advocating for Aid for Trade programmes because we believe that it can contribute to achieving real impact. And we are doing that by telling stories about the benefits of Aid for Trade and how it can actually translate into real benefits for the private sector on the ground; how it can translate into benefits for communities; and how it can translate into options for women, which I also think is critically important."

"We *all* have to play a role in the solution. Growth without consequences is not possible, and therefore we need to find a way to grow that takes into consideration long-term sustainable development". Ms. Francis said.

For more information:

Contact: Micaela Daniel

Chief, Communications and Events

P: +41 22 730 0356

E: daniel@intracen.org

www.intracen.org