

Table Events relating to trade related assistance, Integrated Framework and Aid for Trade, from 1996 onwards.

Date	Event
1996–97	At the WTO Singapore Ministerial Meeting, member states set up the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Assistance (IF) for the LDCs.
	WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC carried out needs assessments in the eight countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.
1997	Integrated Framework created at the WTO High Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives by six multilateral institutions (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank and the WTO) to better integrate LDCs into multilateral trading system. Its activities should consist of diagnostic studies of trade constraints and capacity building. Typically, Diagnostic Studies identified needs in such areas as trade policy, trade facilitation, trade capacity and policy coordination, and market access.
1998	WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC set up with donors a Common Trust Fund to mobilize donor support for the eight countries they assessed. The individual projects were transformed into the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP).
2000	An OECD report found that IF lacked priorities, funding and governance and therefore had limited payoffs for developing countries. The mid-term evaluation of JITAP made some recommendations about new organisational and management strategies for the fund.
2001	Integrated Framework revised as a result of its poor evaluation in the prior year, with a new governance structure and more clearly defined priorities.
	Launch of WTO round in Doha. At the meeting held at Doha in November 2001, members reaffirmed their commitment to developing countries, and especially the LDCs, by agreeing, among other things, to 'well-targeted, sustainably financed technical assistance and capacity building.' (final WTO declaration).
2002	<p>The European Commission responds to the Doha text which contains many references to development and forms the basis of much of the current thinking on TRA. The Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, entitled the 'Trade and Development: Assisting Developing Countries to Benefit from Trade' (endorsed by the Council in November 2002) describes the EC's TRA strategy.</p> <p>OECD and WTO jointly set up the Trade-Related Assistance and Capacity Building database to provide information on trade-related technical assistance and capacity building projects.</p> <p>JITAP is extended to eight new countries: Botswana, Cameroon and Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal and Zambia. The OECD DAC prepared an evaluation of the programme and concluded that the design was excellent but that outcomes had been mixed given the ambitiousness of its goals.</p>
2003	Second phase of JITAP launched.
	First evidence on preference erosion: IMF paper to WTO on LDC preference erosion; Mauritius on need to find solution; ODI paper to ILEAP on African's preference erosion.
	Cotton exporters demand for compensation.
	The WTO ministerial in Cancún leads to the perceived need to deal with development in Round.
	The inter-service trade and development task force of the European Commission produces an internal working paper 'Guidelines for EC Trade-Related Assistance' in order to provide detailed practical orientations to people involved in the design, planning and delivery of TRA projects on the ground and to facilitate coordination and coherence between EU and member states' activities.
2004	An evaluation of the IF by the World Bank Operations Evaluation Department found the programme to be under-funded and increased money was needed to meet infrastructure needs. Total funds in the integrated framework reached US\$ 21.1 million and total funds in JITAP reached US\$ 12.6 million in this year.
	Alexandraki and Lankes (from IMF) provide an estimate of adjustment costs of middle-income countries following DDA implementation. Gillson <i>et al.</i> calculate adjustment costs faced by countries following the end of sugar and banana EU import regimes.
	The Millennium Project Task Force on Trade suggested the establishment of a (temporary) 'Aid for Trade Fund'.
2005	The Sutherland Report underlined the need to support developing countries in dealing with trade liberalisation.
	Several calculations of preference erosion costs; Low <i>et al.</i> provide a WTO estimation of losses from preference erosion in non-agricultural markets.
	Hoekman and Prowse paper on 'From Trade as Aid to Aid for Trade'.
	World Bank officially recognises that preference erosion matters.

February 2005	G7 Finance Ministers Meeting, London: <i>Conclusions on Development</i> . Call for additional assistance; Scope: adjustment; increasing 'capacity to take advantage of more open markets' Eligibility: developing countries
March 2005	OECD–DAC High Level Forum, Paris: <i>Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness</i> Commitment to improve aid quality
April 2005	Development Committee, Washington, D.C.: <i>Aid for Trade: Competitiveness and Adjustment, Joint Note by the Staffs of the IMF and the World Bank</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening Aid for Trade through the IF enhanced IF identifying needs on the basis of the IF DTIS developing a coherent trade strategy within which additional projects to support trade facilitation and adjustment could be planned eligibility: LDCs and consideration of extending IF to all IDA-only recipients.
May 2005	Letter from World Bank/IMF to Geneva-based Ambassadors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for coordination of a Geneva-based process 'on building understanding for proposals for IF and Aid for Trade'
July 2005	G8 Summit, Gleneagles, Scotland: <i>The Gleneagles Communiqué (Africa, Promoting Growth)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> doubling aid for Africa by 2010 and increasing ODA by around US\$ 50bn per year by 2010 increasing 'help to developing countries to build the physical, human and institutional capacity to trade including trade facilitation measures' '[G]rant additional support for trade capacity building to assist LDCs, particularly in Africa, to take advantage of the new opportunities to trade resulting from a positive conclusion' of the Doha negotiations call on the IFIs to 'submit proposals to the annual meetings for additional assistance to countries to develop their capacity to trade and ease adjustment in their economies' <p>Barosso pledge at G8: 'trade-related assistance from the European Commission would increase from €800 million to €1 billion per year for the 2007–2013 period. In addition, EU member states committed to ensure that trade-related technical assistance would reach €1 billion by 2010. So, the total EU contribution for Aid for Trade should reach €2 billion by 2010'.</p>
June 2005	G7 & G8 Finance Ministers Meeting, London: '...Call on the IFIs to submit proposals for the Annual Meetings for additional assistance to countries to develop their capacity to trade and ease adjustment in their economies, based on a systematic analysis of transition costs, so they can take advantage of more open markets'.
July 2005	Geneva Consultations process: <i>'Aid for Trade' Initiative – Options to Enhance Support, Non-Paper</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced IF: main delivery mechanism for Aid for Trade Additional finance (US\$ 5–15 million per country) to enhance IF disbursed over a 10-year period New multilateral fund for supply-side constraints; and a separate window for adjustment issues Eligibility: LDCs, with possible extension to low income developing countries, e.g. all IDA-only recipients through new financing window
August 2005	Zedillo report recommended an aid for trade fund
September 2005	Development Committee, Washington, D.C.: IMF and World Bank <i>Doha Development Agenda and Aid for Trade</i> (Paper prepared by the staff of the IMF and the World Bank) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced IF: 'most effective channel for trade to tap into existing and additional aid flows' Doubts about value of a multilateral fund for priorities identified in the DTIS Merit in examining <i>regional or cross-country</i> aid for trade needs Value in strengthening assessment of adjustment needs for existing mechanisms to be better utilised '...Serious misgivings about the desirability and effectiveness of a separate fund to address adjustment, given the availability of existing mechanisms'
October 2005	LDC WTO Coordinator <i>A LDC Contribution: Alternative Proposals to the World Bank/IMF Aid for Trade Proposals (letter by Patel, Zambia)</i> Enhanced IF to address the value chain; Create an Adjustment Facility to cope with short term losses and improve competitiveness ; Set up an Infrastructure Fund ; Debt Relief ; Eligibility: LDCs and other low-income countries

October 2005	<p>Pascal Lamy (WTO) supports the idea of an aid for trade initiative at the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board of 6 October 2005</p> <p>Special DAC Meeting on Aid for Trade, Paris: <i>Background Note</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated delivery of TRTA • Rationale for Aid for Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adopting and implementing existing WTO obligations ○ Addressing supply-side constraints and Aid for Trade related infrastructure to improve these constraints ○ Assistance required for adjustment to revenue losses related to trade liberalisation and preference erosion
November 2005	<p>The Department for International Development will treble its support to GBPE 100 million pounds a year by 2010 to help poor countries boost their exports to the rest of the world.</p> <p>WTO suggested an Aid for Trade paragraph for Hong Kong declaration and set up process in Geneva.</p>
December 2005	<p>Japan to increase its aid for trade by US\$ 10 billion by 2010</p> <p>The US said it intended to reach US\$2.7 billion a year in Aid for Trade grants by 2010 (doubling from 2005)</p> <p>OECD/WTO report on TRTA database, doubling over a few years.</p>
December 2005	<p>G7 Finance Ministers Meeting, London: <i>Statement by G7 Finance Ministers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement to collaborate with the IFIs on additional measures ‘for developing countries to ease adjustment costs and increase their capacity to trade’ • Expectation of Aid for Trade to increase to US\$ 4 billion, including through enhancing the Integrated Framework’ • ‘In the context of our shared commitments to double aid for Africa by 2010, we agree to give priority to the infrastructure necessary to allow countries to take advantage of the improved opportunities to trade’
December 2005	<p>WTO ministerial in Hong-Kong, <i>final declaration</i>. At the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting, members adopted a Declaration with Paragraph 57 on Aid for Trade World Bank and IMF endorsed a proposal to enhance the IF and at the Trade Ministers welcomed the establishment of a Task Force within the IF.</p>
February 2006	<p>The WTO Director General establishes the task force on Aid for Trade. It includes Barbados, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the European Communities, Japan, India, Thailand, the United States and the coordinators of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the African Group and the LDC Group.</p> <p>The Task Force started its activities which should produce a set of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of Aid for Trade in contributing to the development dimension of the DDA.</p>
April 2006	<p>Development Committee, Washington, D.C.: World Bank Background report: <i>Trade Progress Report: The Doha Development Agenda and Aid for Trade: Hong Kong and Beyond</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad definition of Aid for Trade; ‘Supply-side’ constraints, need to define ‘trade-related infrastructure’ ; Inclusion of adjustment unclear • IF Task Force state of play: IF will remain focussed on LDCs • Focus on technical assistance/project preparation activities and catalytic role in larger projects such as infrastructure
May/June 2006	<p>OECD plans to report; draft recommendations Integrated Framework Task Force</p> <p>Positions by Zambia on behalf of LDC; World Bank; ITC; IMF; UNDP; ADB; AfDB; Mauritius on behalf of ACP; UNIDO; Brazil; UNCTAD; Colombia; IADB; EC;</p>
July 2006	<p>Aid for Trade Task Force to report</p>

Source: ODI database at <http://www.odi.org.uk/iedg/aid4trade.html>; and sources reported in Te Velde and Cali (2006), incl. AITIC (2006).