

**COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: SOUTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE FOR NON-RESIDENT COUNTRIES**

Friday, 6 May 2011, 11 am-1pm

Substantive Backgrounder

Almost all the WTO non-resident countries (i.e. the countries that are either members or observers at the WTO but do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva) are Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs). They have in common a set of market, supply-side and capacity constraints which hamper successful development and poverty reduction for them. International trade and an enabling multilateral trading system can be a powerful engine for growth and development for these countries by broadening market opportunities, generating employment and income through export-led growth, and reduce dependence and vulnerability through diversification among others.

Non-resident countries also face specific constraints in their regular and effective participation in the WTO. Because they lack the resources to maintain permanent offices in Geneva, they have difficulty in gaining full access to information on WTO's work on a real time basis. Moreover, they cannot be fully involved in the negotiations especially now that informal processes are taking an increasing role and negotiating sessions are held daily. Redressing the representation and information gaps is of utmost importance for them to fully advance their needs and ensure that they are reflected in the multilateral trading system.

On the way to development, developing countries have learned that they can turn to each other for assistance and mutual learning. Through South-South initiatives of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building, LDCs and SVEs non-resident countries can build on the experience of fellow Southern countries which are successfully implementing trade-led growth and poverty reduction strategies. As economies grow at a slower rate and costs have to be cut, developed countries may reduce development funding, hence the need for strengthened South-South cooperation.

With these challenges and opportunities in mind, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre will organize this session during the WTO Geneva Week to strengthen South-South cooperation to help non-resident countries harness the development potential of international trade. More specifically, the session will pursue the following objectives:

- To identify the development assistance needs of non-resident countries;
- To outline the development assistance activities of key emerging countries; and
- To discuss ways to strengthen South-South Development Assistance to promote development through trade.

Programme

- 11am: Welcome and introduction by the Chair
Ramamurti Badrinath, Director, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre
- 1110am: Needs of non-resident missions
Presentation by *H.E. Ambassador Brave Ndisale, Ambassador of Malawi to Belgium and Permanent Representative to the WTO*
- 1130am: South-South Development Assistance : Experience of China
Presentation by *Zhang Xiangchen, Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the WTO*
- 1145am: South-South Development Assistance : Experience of India
Presentation by *Ravi Bangar, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the WTO*
- 12noon: Open discussion
- 1250pm: Concluding remarks by the Chair