

## **Partnership for Development through Trade: Malawi Experience and Expectations**

**Side Event by Malawi Mission to the WTO Brussels and CUTs Geneva Resource Centre**

**1400-1500, 10 June 2010**

**Room C, WTO**

The second trade policy review (TPR) of Malawi will be undertaken by the WTO Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) on 9 and 11 June 2010. A number of important internal and external developments have taken place since the first TPR of Malawi in 2002. For example,

- Based on Vision 2020, several comprehensive growth and development strategies have been adopted, e.g., Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy of 2002, Malawi Economic Growth Strategy of 2004, and Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) of 2006.
- Consistent efforts have been made to mainstream trade into development strategies including through the Integrated Framework (IF) process, e.g. Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) recommendations have been reflected in MGDS as well as in National Export Strategy and Private Sector Development Strategy.
- Trade regime has become much more open, e.g., the Overall Trade Restrictiveness Index (including applied tariffs and NTBs) has come down from 22.4 (average of the period 2004-07) to 13.4 in 2008.
- The commodity boom of earlier this decade somewhat improved the terms of trade but the gains were more than offset by the increases in international food and fuel prices.
- The recent global financial and economic crisis adversely impacted growth of external markets, and flows of remittances and official assistance.

Many trade and development challenges continue. The nominal GDP per capita was estimated to be a low US\$ 274 in 2008; Export Product Concentration Index increased from 0.585 in 2000 to 0.656 in 2008; and while exports increased from US\$433 million in 2005 to US\$879 million in 2008, imports increased much faster during the same period (from US\$500 million in 2005 to US\$2204 in 2008). Clearly, further concerted efforts by Malawi and its development partners are needed to harness the potential of trade for sustained growth and development.

It is in this context that CUTS Geneva Resource Centre, in collaboration with Malawi Mission to the WTO (based in Brussels, Belgium) is organizing this side event with the following objectives:

- Highlight the trade policy achievements since 2002,
- Identify the continuing and emerging challenges, and
- Discuss possible way forward for better trade and development partnerships.

## Programme

- 1400 Welcome and introduction by Mr. Rashid S. Kaukab, Deputy Director and Research Coordinator CUTS Geneva Resource Centre
- 1405 Keynote Address by Mr. Newby Henry KUMWEMBE, Permanent Secretary for Industry and Trade Malawi and head of Malawi delegation on “*Malawi trade and development strategies: achievements and challenges*”
- 1420 Presentation by Mr. David Luke, Senior Advisor & Coordinator, Trade and Human Development Unit, UNDP Geneva on “*Mainstreaming trade into development: issues for Malawi*”
- 1430 Presentation by Mr. Michael Roberts, Aid for Trade Coordinator, Development Division WTO on “*Aid for Trade: opportunities and options for Malawi*”
- 1440 Comments from the floor
- 1500 Conclusion