

# STATISTICAL NOTES

## Background:

The official collection of aid-for-trade data originated from a decision made by WTO members at the Joint OECD/WTO Trade Capacity Building meeting on 4 May 2007. It was decided to use the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) for the collection and monitoring of the broader aid-for-trade agenda instead of the Trade Capacity Building Database (TCBDB) which catered for the more specialised reporting on trade-related technical assistance and capacity building (TRTA/CB).

In this respect members of the OECD Working Party on Statistics agreed to modify the CRS to accommodate the collection of aid-for-trade data in 2007 by adding a trade-related adjustment code and a policy marker for trade development activities.

## Data:

Aid-for-trade data in Chapter 2 and Annex A are collected on an annual basis from DAC members, multilateral agencies and non-DAC countries. The information provided concerns aid for trade as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on a commitment and disbursement basis (see definitions below). All activities reported relate to countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (see Annexes B and C).

The CRS covers all sectors of aid and so a specially adapted CRS questionnaire and reporting guidelines were created for aid-for-trade data collection. A full list of aid-for-trade CRS purpose codes can be found in Annex D.

Data used for this publication covers commitments from 2002 to 2009 and disbursements from 2006 to 2009. Both flows are in US dollars (deflated base: 2009). All commitment data are compared to a 2002-05 baseline, which was established to measure the progress since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative at the 2005 Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference.

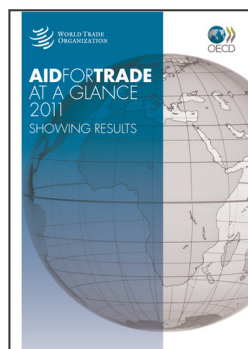
## Definitions:

**Commitment:** A firm written obligation by a government or official agency, backed by the appropriation or availability of the necessary funds, to provide resources of a specified amount under specified financial terms and conditions and for specified purposes for the benefit of a recipient country or a multilateral agency.

**Disbursement:** A disbursement is the placement of resources at the disposal of a recipient country or agency, or in the case of internal development-related expenditures, the outlay of funds by the official sector.

## Further Information:

- 1) Caution should be used when interpreting Australia's aid-for-trade data.  
See Box 2.2 for further details.
- 2) For an explanation of the Inter-American Development Bank's data reported to the CRS, see Box 2.2.
- 3) Footnotes included in the tables in Annex A refer to specific issues.



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