

Trade and Development Statement

The Australian Government continues to support liberalisation unequivocally and resist protectionism. And we are committ

Australia's Aid for Trade

Aid for Trade is about providing development assistance for the trade-related needs of developing countries to enable better engagement in the international trading system and regional trade initiatives. Like all development assistance, Aid for Trade must be demand driven, carefully designed and co-ordinated to ensure the greatest benefit out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

Australia's Aid for Trade is built on two pillars:

1. Improving market access

The international trading system must be equitable and should allow developing countries to pursue their interests in an informed manner. Australia's priorities include:

Building the capacity of developing countries to negotiate effectively when entering into international and regional trade agreements

Assisting developing countries to implement trade agreements and comply with international standards around food and health safety

Helping developing countries to overcome the practical challenges of onerous export procedures and red tape

Strengthening the institutional architecture so that the WTO and regional organisations are able to support the priorities of developing countries.

2. Building competitive economies

There are substantial opportunities in regional and global markets. But countries must be competitive enough and productive enough to take advantage of these opportunities. Many developing countries need assistance to realise the benefits of trade. Australia's priorities therefore include:

Investing in trade-related infrastructure – such as roads, ports, wharfs and airports – to reduce the cost of doing business

Investing in human resource development through vocational and skills training initiatives, and re-skilling and supporting workers to take up shifting economic opportunities

Facilitating investment and private sector development by improving the business, trade and regulatory environment

Ensuring trade contributes to positive development outcomes including poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, gender equality and equitable development between rural and urban areas.