



Response to Fairtrade Foundation ‘Show Your Hand’ campaign

Trade plays a central role in the Sustainable Development Goals, as a way to promote sustainable growth and help integrate Least Developed Countries into global markets. Maximising the important contribution that trade can make to sustainable development is a key policy objective that the UK pursues multilaterally through the World Trade Organisation and in its bilateral and regional trade negotiations.

The joint Business Innovation and Skills, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Trade Policy Unit is working across Whitehall to deliver on this agenda and to ensure that the government is taking a holistic approach to trade policy. The Trade Policy Unit has worked hard to ensure that our priorities on trade and development are included in the Sustainable Development Goals including; commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and negotiations at the World Trade Organisation, providing good quality aid for trade which is focused on Least Developed Countries and encouraging the universal implementation of Duty Free Quota Free access to all Least Developed Countries, with accessible Rules of Origin and the removal of trade subsidies and distortions in agricultural trade.

The UK provides over £1 billion on aid for trade annually. Our support which helps developing countries integrate into the global trading system includes projects which are working to support trade facilitation, provide technical expertise for trade negotiations and improving economic infrastructure. For example, in 2015, Department for International Development funded programmes helped Least Developed Countries to develop and negotiate the Least Developed Countries services waiver, which seeks to provide market access for trade in services for the world’s poorest countries.

We work to influence trade negotiations through the European Union and the World Trade Organisation to ensure development interests are at the forefront of the agenda. Concluding the Doha Development Agenda and adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement are key priorities for 2015. Adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement could boost global Gross Domestic Product by US\$100bn, with US\$10bn going to sub-Saharan Africa.

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