



# Trade Package for LDCs

The Swiss Trade Package launched during the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) aims to support the participation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the global trade system and enable them to use trade as an engine for sustainable growth.

## Rationale

LDCs face a range of challenges and opportunities in relation to the multilateral trade system. Accession to the WTO remains a significant hurdle for LDCs that are not already members. Post-accession, the implementation of WTO agreements can present difficulties. Yet, the WTO accession and the implementation of WTO agreements offer strategic opportunities. By contributing to key WTO partners such as the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Trade and Sustainability Hub, the package provides concrete technical support for the issues LDCs see as a main obstacle for taking advantage of the multilateral trade system. It promotes their inclusive economic development, with particular attention to women and youth, by enhancing legal, institutional and policy capacities, and building capacity also of the private sector. With the package, Switzerland underscores and reinforces its commitment to the rules-based multilateral trade system.

## Objectives and activities

The initiatives under the package aim at increasing LDCs capacities to use trade as a tool for development by mainstreaming trade into national development strategies and addressing constraints to international trade. Under the trade package the following initiatives are supported:

### Advisory Centre for WTO Law (ACWL)

The ACWL is an international organisation established in 2001 and located in Geneva. Its mission is to provide developing countries and LDCs with the necessary legal capacities to enable them to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the WTO. The ACWL aims to level the playing field by helping beneficiaries to better understand their rights and obligations under the WTO agreements. The ACWL conducts practical training courses on all aspects of WTO law; offers an annual Secondment Programme for Trade Lawyers from LDC or developing country governments; and gives legal advice on all procedural and substantive issues arising under WTO law. The overall objective of these efforts is to foster the effective participation of developing countries and LDCs in the multilateral trade system and thus to promote their further integration into global value chains.

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### Country/region

Global, LDCs

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### Partners

ACWL, EIF, IISD

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### Duration

2026-2030

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### SECO contribution

CHF 3,550,000

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### **Enhanced Integrated Framework, Phase 3 (EIF)**

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a multi-donor programme that focuses exclusively on LDCs and aims at integrating LDCs into the global trade system. The programme provides trade related technical assistance and capacity building to help LDCs to use trade as a driver of development and poverty reduction. EIF Phase 3 will focus on two areas: Strengthening the institutional, policy and regulatory environment of LDCs; and boosting LDC trade competitiveness and productive capacity. It does so, for example, by strengthening trade and investment coordination mechanisms in beneficiary governments, or by providing support for innovation, technology adoption and standards compliance. The goal of the third phase of the programme is to foster competitive, diversified and resilient LDC economies integrated into the global trade and investment system.

### **IISD's Trade and Sustainability Hub at MC14**

The Trade and Sustainability Hub is an event gathering various stakeholder alongside MC14, organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). It brings together stakeholders from within and outside governments to discuss how the global trading system can evolve to meet the pressure it is under. The Hub consists of different formats as plenary sessions, boardroom-style sessions or presentations. The sessions focus on three key challenges in international trade policy: Delivering for Agriculture, Delivering an inclusive low-carbon global economy, and Delivering digitized industrialization where small business thrives.

### **Additional information**

Website ACWL: [Home - ACWL](#)


Website EIF: [Enhanced Integrated Framework \(EIF\)](#)


Website Trade and Sustainability Hub: [Trade and Sustainability Hub 2026](#)

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Rules-based trade system



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