

STATEMENT BY

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION (SACU),

ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD GLOBAL REVIEW OF AID FOR TRADE.

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SESSION 6 - OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

I thank you Chairperson

I take the floor on this very important topic to support comments made by the Secretary General and the representative of the African Development Bank in particular to emphasize the importance of the issue of political will.

SACU celebrated its centenary in 2010. Heads of State and Government used the opportunity to launch a Vision and Mission for the Customs Union to be an economic community with equitable and sustainable development dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future.

This is a clear indication by Member States of the desire to use SACU as a vehicle for deeper integration and the development of the sub-region.

Consequently a new work programme was developed focusing on, *inter alia*, regional industrialisation, trade facilitation, institution building, revenue sharing and unified engagement in trade negotiations.

SACU Member States further recognised their role within the wider regional and continental integration agenda under the Abuja Treaty. Consequently, they have welcomed and supported the tripartite initiative as an effort to promote deeper economic integration, to promote market access, to develop infrastructure and increase their manufacturing base.

Finally Chairperson, a lot has been said about Aid For Trade over the past two days. Suffice to say that as we embark on the comprehensive development agenda, Aid for Trade initiatives will be even more critical to unlock the productive potential and to advance the regional integration agenda of SACU and other Regional Organisations.