



# Making trade work for all

Social Forum 2009

*Panel: International assistance and cooperation in combating poverty*

Geneva, 2 September 2009



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## Agenda

- ❖ Basis of presentation
- ❖ Key issue: how to ensure that trade is conducive to human rights?
- ❖ Brief introduction to human rights impact assessments (HRIAs)
- ❖ What's next?



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## Basis of presentation

- Specific segment of human rights (HR) obligations
  - Extraterritorial obligations (ETO) – obligation to respect and protect
  - Joint commitment to design and implement development policies/programmes consistent with agreed international commitments (Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra 2008)



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## Nexus trade – HR



- 'Quid pro quo'
- Few references to HR\*
  - HR as conditionality

\* e.g. access to medicine, conflict diamonds



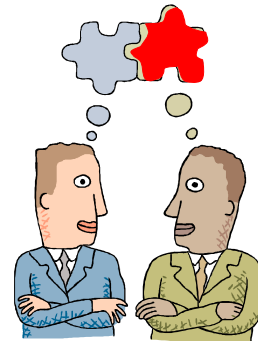
- Minimum core content
  - Non-discrimination
  - Strategy to improve
- Process issues
- Impact assessment



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## HR approach to trade

1. Assess equity of distribution of gains/losses of trade liberalization
2. Highlight States' obligations
3. Ensure that members use the flexibilities that WTO offers



## Human rights impact assessments

- Use norms and standards of HR framework to develop indicators
- To judge effects of trade rules
- *Ex ante* or *ex post*
- Economic analysis AND social science techniques required
- Pros and cons



## What's next?

Panel on HRIAs  
(WTO Public Forum, 30 Sep)



Pipeline: HRIA project

Questions/comments?

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## In lieu of a conclusion ...

“Tant qu’il n’y aura pas d’égalité  
économique, l’égalité politique est un  
mensonge.”

(José Fontana, 1840-76)

(As long as there is no economic equality, political equality  
remains a lie.)

