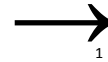


# Making trade work for all

Social Forum 2009

*Panel: International assistance and cooperation in combating poverty*

Geneva, 2 September 2009



1

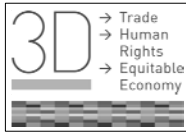


## Agenda

- ❖ 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?



2



## 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)



3




## Nexus trade – HR

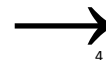


- ‘Quid pro quo’
- Few references to HR\*
  - HR as conditionality

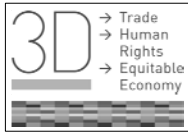
\*e.g. access to medicine, conflict diamonds



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

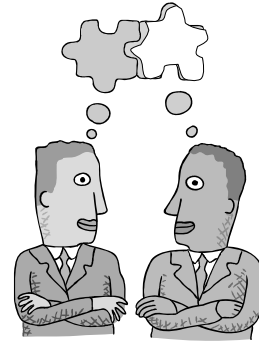


4



## 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

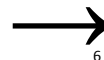


5



## 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



6



## What's next?

Panel on HRIAs (WTO Public Forum, 30 September)



Pipeline: HRIA project



7



## 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.)



8