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ILEAP
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International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) is an independent not-for-profit organization that aims to contribute to the reduction of poverty by supporting low-income countries and regions to secure pro-development and equitable outcomes from trade and investment negotiations, implementation, and policy and regulatory reforms.

Drawing on our global network of advisors, ILEAP pursues lasting impacts through the provision of independent economic and legal advisory support, capacity building, and the creation and dissemination of knowledge and information.

APPROACH

ILEAP's multidisciplinary approach to delivering results focuses on three pillars:

ADVISORY SUPPORT

Providing real-time advice and counsel; generating analytical support for informed decision-making; and facilitating consensus-building workshops

CAPACITY BUILDING

Focussed on training for policy analysis skills development; Fellowships for enhancing trade expertise; and responding to short-term training needs

KNOWLEDGE CREATION AND DISSEMINATION

Providing forward-looking research and analysis; serving as a knowledge bank on key trade and development issues; and facilitating interaction amongst practitioners to promote best-practice in the delivery of development-oriented technical assistance and capacity building

Founded in 2002, ILEAP's launch was motivated by the realisation that developing countries needed to be able to better influence the terms on which they engaged and integrated with the global economy. Nearly a decade later, while the nature and focus of the debate has evolved considerably – in particular with the increased emphasis on regional integration as the cornerstone for growth-inducing reforms and the reduction of poverty – this need remains strong.

As a demand-driven organisation, the evolving needs of our beneficiaries have led to a sharpened focus in ILEAP's efforts on the role of trade and investment policies, regulatory reforms, and the implementation of commitments. Intervening more directly in such areas is viewed as being integral to better support our beneficiaries in leveraging the impacts of negotiating processes on new regionally-defined domestic realities.

ADVISORY NETWORK

ILEAP facilitates the recruiting, retaining and monitoring of multi-disciplinary teams of professional advisors. ILEAP identifies and evaluates prospective legal and economic advisors, and assembles issue-focused multidisciplinary teams led by experienced professionals. These multidisciplinary teams include senior advisors, such as practicing lawyers, trade negotiators, and academics. Where possible,

ILEAP tries to engage lawyers and economists from developing countries to work with trade experts. ILEAP further relies on junior professionals, such as graduate or post-doctoral students in law and economics, whose role is to prepare the background material required for the final advice in accordance with the senior advisory team guidelines.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Recent areas of focus include:

- Trade in services
- Trade facilitation
- Aid for trade
- Regional integration



BENEFICIARIES

ILEAP's primary beneficiaries are state and non-state actors in sub-Saharan Africa. These include:

- Country coalitions, such as the LDC and African Groups at the WTO, the AU and ACP;
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in West, Central, and East & Southern Africa;
- National governments; and
- Non-state actors, comprising a network of Southern and Northern institutional and individual partners, such as civil society groups, private sector associations and operators, and academic and research institutions

DESIRED RESULTS

Delivered in concert with a range of Southern and Northern partners, ILEAP's work aims to contribute towards poverty reduction, reduced inequality and environmentally-sustainable economic growth.

- Improved outcomes from negotiations
- Improved policy and regulatory outcomes
- Improved productive capacities
- Increased use of African professionals to provide economic and legal advice on trade and investment