



TRADE FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Sidley's lawyers provide clients with tailored pro bono advice on how to better leverage the existing policy space under international economic frameworks.

SIDLEY

TALENT. TEAMWORK. RESULTS.



About the Program

Sidley's Trade for Development Initiative seeks to help government officials achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth through the strategic use of trade and investment policy. Specifically, this initiative provides pro bono legal and technical advice to least-developed countries, lower-middle income countries, trade associations, and non-governmental organizations in the context of trade and investment policy.

How We Can Help

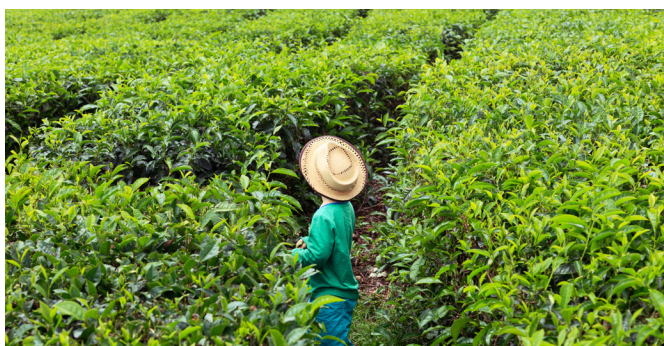
We offer a comprehensive approach combining legal, technical, and strategic advice. Our services include:

- Drafting and reviewing policy instruments
- Researching and preparing memoranda to inform policy decisions
- Training government officials on key developments in international economic law

Project Selection Process

Sidley's lawyers carefully select the projects they take up. Criteria that are taken into consideration in the selection process include: (1) whether the project is well-defined and trade-focused; (2) whether the project can result in realistic, concrete solutions; (3) whether the project can be completed within a defined and realistic timeframe for Sidley's lawyers (e.g., six months); and (4) lawyers' availability and interest.





Areas of Focus

Eligible clients are invited to submit their requests with regard to any relevant trade and development issues on which they seek legal and technical advice. Legal advice includes guidance on international trade and investment obligations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bilateral and plurilateral treaty frameworks. Technical advice entails analyzing best practices and helping to assess prospective economic impacts of different trade and investment configurations. Our advice includes, but is not limited to:

TARIFFS

- Preferential market access
- Rules of origin issues
- Tariff negotiations and harmonization

NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

- Advising on how to harmonize relevant sanitary and phytosanitary laws and technical regulations with international standards
- Advising exporting countries on how to comply with increasingly stringent product standards

REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

- Advising on establishing priorities in the negotiation of regional trade agreements
- Analyzing anticipated costs and benefits of entering new trade agreements

MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK (WTO)

- Providing strategic advice on WTO reform-related issues
- Guiding developing countries on technical issues (including e-commerce, safeguards, and fisheries)
- Advising on the pre-dispute phase of various trade-related measures
- Assisting Members with ongoing negotiations

TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Advising on how to leverage free trade agreements to achieve green growth objectives
- Advising on how to align a transition to a circular economy with a country's trade policy

Client Examples

BHUTAN

Sidley's lawyers are assisting Bhutan's Ministry of Economic Affairs with: i) reviewing Bhutan's draft Industrial Design Legislation to ensure it is aligned with international best practices; and ii) analyzing Bhutan's eligibility for the EU's GSP+ preferential scheme, as well as the anticipated economic benefits that would come with joining this scheme once the country graduates from least-developed country status.

GUYANA

Sidley is assisting the government of Guyana in analyzing different regulatory structures available to establish a special economic zone as a means to attract foreign direct investment while ensuring competition among local businesses.

BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is a trade association dedicated to promoting the Bangladeshi apparel industry. BGMEA has requested Sidley's pro bono assistance to help strategize on how Bangladesh can continue to obtain maximum benefits from the EU's GSP program after it loses least-developed country status.

THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

Sidley is providing strategic advice to the organization on how to make constructive contributions to the WTO reform debate and formulate a position that reflects the OECS's interest in protecting artisanal fishing.

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More information about the program can be found at:
<https://www.sidley.com/en/probonolanding/trade-for-development-initiative>

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