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Guide to WTO-Related

Technical Assistance Resources for

Sub-Saharan Africa



Sponsored by the Government of the United States

on the occasion of the

Third WTO Ministerial Conference

November 30–December 3, 1999

Seattle, Washington

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

PN-ACS-930

November 29, 1999

Dear Colleagues:

One of President Clinton's priorities in trade policy is the strengthening of America's economic partnership with Sub-Saharan Africa and its integration into the world trading system.

In preparation for the WTO's Ministerial Conference in Seattle, I have listened closely to the advice and ideas of many African governments. Many of you have stressed to me the importance of strong, effective technical assistance programs. We have responded by working to strengthen our national programs, and the WTO's; and we have published this Comprehensive Guide to WTO-Related Technical Assistance Resources for African countries to ensure that all our trading partners in Africa have the easiest access to these programs.

The Guide is an aggregate inventory of technical assistance resources available from multilateral, regional, and bilateral sources. By bringing all the information together in one source, I believe the Guide will help your Ministry take full advantage of the resources the WTO and other sources have to offer. This in turn may be of great assistance in your efforts to use the WTO to stimulate growth, technological progress, and new opportunities for your nation's businesses, farmers and entrepreneurs.

Please let me know of your comments and further suggestions. I look forward to working together and strengthening the partnership between our nations in the new Round, at the WTO and in the next century.

Sincerely,



Charlene Barshefsky

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Office of the United States Trade Representative**

**Prepared by
Nathan Associates Inc.**

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Preface

This guide is intended to help African Trade Ministers and other trade officials to build expertise related to the negotiation and implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. It provides an inventory of technical assistance programs for strengthening the participation of African nations in the multilateral trading system.

The descriptions of trade-related technical assistance in this guide are organized by (1) principal WTO-related subjects and (2) major institutional source of assistance, including multilateral lending agencies, bilateral aid donor agencies, and African regional organizations. Wherever possible, the form and content of technical assistance are described. Because many technical assistance or training programs are customized to the needs of beneficiary countries, detailed information is not always available. The descriptions of each technical assistance program include contact information where more details can be obtained and discussions of assistance needs can be initiated.

This guide is arranged in the following five parts:

- **Part I, Background**, summarizes the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and briefly describes the WTO. It also defines the categories of technical assistance provider institutions covered in this guide, and the major types of technical assistance available.
- **Part II, Technical Assistance by Subject**, presents 24 WTO-related technical topics. Under each subject, major technical assistance resources and key provider organizations and contacts are described. The kind of assistance provided by these organizations is also described.
- **Part III, Technical Assistance by Provider Organization**, describes the institutions providing assistance to sub-Saharan African nations on WTO-related questions. Each institution's role and objectives, technical assistance activities—including types of programs, funding approaches for assistance, procedures for requesting assistance, and points of contact—are outlined.
- **Part IV, Index**, lists nearly 90 technical topics mentioned in the guide.
- **Part V, Selected Program Documents**, reproduces five key documents from various providers of WTO-related technical assistance. These documents are not available at the web sites of the providers' organizations. They are included here to help further explain the nature of provider organization support to sub-Saharan African governments.

CD-ROM Guide

This guide is also available in CD-ROM format. The CD-ROM is self-contained and can be used on any personal computer with a CD-ROM drive without any special software. The CD-ROM version allows access to information on WTO-related technical assistance to Africa in a structured way. A menu will introduce you to the CD-ROM, at which point you may view any of the five separate parts of the guide. The menu also allows you to go directly to descriptions of technical assistance resources by (1) subject or (2) provider organization.

When you select either of these options, you will be presented with a range of detailed choices for further investigation. Under “subjects,” for instance, you may select from 24 separate technical areas in which WTO-related assistance is offered. Once you select a subject, you will be presented with additional links to organizations that provide assistance in the subject, an outline of each organization, and a summary of the assistance it provides. Under “provider organizations” you can directly access detailed descriptions of 25 institutions that deliver WTO-related technical assistance to sub-Saharan Africa.

The major parts of the guide are also interlinked on the CD-ROM. The descriptions of technical assistance by subject provide automatic, internal links to descriptions of technical assistance by provider organization. Hyperlinks embedded throughout the CD-ROM guide allow direct access to the web sites of provider organizations, as well as important documents on WTO-related technical assistance programs. Both the “subjects” and “provider organizations” sections of the guide are linked internally to a “selected documents” section, which contains a limited set of important program documents not available on provider organization web sites.

Finally, an index lists about 90 technical topics mentioned in the guide. You can move from this list directly to the principal sections of the guide where these technical topics arise.

Part I. Background on GATT, WTO, and Technical Assistance Resources

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT)

For more than 50 years the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was the primary forum for international trade diplomacy and the basic framework for international rules governing global trade. Concluded in 1947 and signed by its 23 original contracting parties, the GATT was one of the four institutional pillars of the post-World War II structure for preserving world peace and stimulating economic growth through (1) international political consultation (United Nations), (2) international monetary cooperation (International Monetary Fund or IMF), international economic development (the World Bank), and (4) open markets through global trade liberalization (GATT).

The objective of the GATT was to reduce national barriers to international trade—first, through across-the-board tariff reduction, then removal of non-tariff measures, and eventually, through development of global standards for fair trade. The fundamental premise of the GATT in pursuing these objectives was then, and remains today, that rules to reduce trade barriers and to facilitate trade liberalization and expansion are best formulated through multilateral consensus in a global forum, bringing together all nations, developed and developing.

The 1947 GATT comprised a package of multilaterally negotiated trade concessions and over 30 Articles establishing the principles and setting the rules that were to govern global trade for nearly 50 years. During that time, the GATT's basic legal text remained the same, but the expanding number of contracting parties engaged in a series of multilateral trade negotiations or "rounds" initially focused on the progressive reduction of tariffs and later on the development of agreements embodying codes of practice in various substantive areas binding only upon the signatories thereof. These rounds and the number of countries involved included the following: (1) 1947, Geneva (26); (2) 1949, Annecy (13); (3) 1951, Torquay (38); (4) 1956, Geneva (26); (5) 1960-61, Dillon (26); (6) 1964-67, Kennedy (62); (7) 1973-79, Tokyo (102); and (8) 1986-94, Uruguay (123).

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

The "Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations," signed in Marrakesh, Morocco on April 15, 1994 incorporates over 50 legal texts. These include the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), GATT 1994, and the Uruguay Round Agreements together with various Understandings, Ministerial Decisions, and Declarations which establish the framework of international rules for global trade administered by the WTO.

The Uruguay Round resulted in a dramatic change in the number and character of GATT-sponsored international rules for global trade and extended GATT disciplines to important new areas, such as agriculture, intellectual property, and services. In contrast to earlier GATT-sponsored codes of behavior, the new framework of the GATT 1994 and the Uruguay Round Multilateral Agreements were to be binding on *all* member countries of the WTO. Under the "Single Undertaking" concept of

the Uruguay Round Final Act, all countries that signed the Final Act in Marrakesh and all those that subsequently acceded to WTO membership, are obligated as a condition of membership to implement the obligations embodied in all of the Uruguay Round *Multilateral* Agreements, except for those so-called "Plurilateral Agreements" which are binding *only* on the signatories thereof.

The underlying premise for the GATT and the WTO was that all WTO Members would agree to broad *principles* governing international trade relations and, upon these principles, build a consensus-based system of *rights* and *obligations* between them. These rights and obligations are embodied in the four *core* principles of the GATT/WTO and certain subsidiary principles in the GATT 1994 as interpreted, clarified, and applied in the Uruguay Round Multilateral Agreements. The four core principles are those relating to

- Most Favored Nation Treatment (MFN),
- National Treatment,
- Reduction of Barriers to Trade, and
- Non-Use of Quantitative Restrictions and the Tariffication of Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade (NTBs).

The subsidiary principles include

- Transparency,
- Consultation,
- Resolution of disputes through the WTO system,
- Attention to the special needs of developing country members,
- "Fair" as well as "open" trade, and
- The availability of "safeguards" to protect a member nation's vital interests.

The WTO was established effective January 1, 1995 upon conclusion and signature of the Final Act. Unlike the GATT (technically an "agreement"), the WTO is recognized as a permanent, structured, international organization designed to oversee the implementation of the Uruguay Round-amended GATT 1994 and agreements. It administers and implements the GATT 1994 and Uruguay Round Agreements; provides the framework and acts as the sponsoring forum for multilateral trade negotiations; facilitates the resolution of trade disputes; reviews Member country trade policies; and cooperates with other international institutions involved in global economic policy. The WTO now has 135 members, including 41 African member countries, and nearly 30 other countries have applied for or are considering membership. Of the current members, about 100 are self-described as "developing countries," and 29 member states are among those countries designated by the United Nations as "least developed."

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES: PROVIDERS AND CATEGORIES

WTO-related technical assistance is available to developing and least-developed countries in Africa from a number of sources and in a number of forms. There are essentially three sets of providers for technical assistance: multilateral, regional, and bilateral institutions.

Multilateral Institutions

Multilateral sources for technical assistance are the various international organizations comprised of Member nations. These organizations provide and fund such assistance, either directly through their own operating budgets or through extra-budgetary contributions from Member countries, non-

governmental organizations or foundations. Delivery of technical assistance is often channeled through the multilateral organization acting as a direct single provider of services. The major “multilateral single provider” institutional sources of trade-related technical assistance identified herein include:

- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- World Customs Organization (WCO)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Bank (WB)

Several multilateral organizations are jointly funding and delivering programs related to WTO issues. These technical assistance sources are termed “multilateral joint provider” programs. They include the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO program, the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP), the Integrated Framework (IF), and the Coordinated African Program of Assistance on Services (CAPAS).

Regional Institutions

In this guide, two regional institutions are significant sources of trade-related technical assistance to Africa: the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the European Union (EU).

Bilateral Donor Agencies

Bilateral technical assistance consists of services provided by a single nation directly to another nation as a result of bilateral agreements or arrangements between the two. The following nations are important bilateral providers of trade-related technical assistance to sub-Saharan African countries:

- Australia
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Germany
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United States of America

Forms of Technical Assistance

International and national technical assistance and cooperation agencies provide developing and least-developed countries with many types of assistance. The types of WTO-related technical assistance described herein include the following:

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

- One-time only regional, subregional, or national events on general policy issues or technical aspects of implementation of the GATT'94 and Uruguay Round agreements—sponsored or funded by assistance agencies.
- Meetings of experts from developed and developing countries to discuss trade-related general, development, or technical topics.

Training Programs

- Technical experts or briefing missions to particular countries to discuss particular topics or issues—generally “how-to” sessions, e.g., WTO notification requirements.
- Formal training courses for capacity building—two days to six months—on a specific or broad trade-related curriculum.
- Funding of fellowships at academic institutions for trade-related studies or course work, sometimes leading to a graduate degree.
- Funding or hosting of internships at international or national trade-related institutions.

Consultant Services

- Provision/funding of consultants for on-site technical assistance and services related to development, trade policy, and implementation of WTO obligations.
- General issue-targeted reviews and commentary for national governments or governmental agencies.
- Legal/legislative review of draft laws, regulations, or legislation for consistency with GATT'94/Uruguay Round agreements and WTO requirements.
- Legislative drafting support for development of GATT/WTO-compliant legislation.
- Undertaking of studies in trade-related policy and technical issue areas for developing country governments, or private organizations.
- Needs assessments and program design and evaluation relating to technical assistance and services or programs for implementation of GATT/WTO obligations.

Information/Document Dissemination

- Provision of study reports, papers, training manuals and materials, legal texts, and other documents.
- Dissemination of data, or statistics, e.g., trade statistics, commodity market reports.

Infrastructural Support

- Provision of machinery and equipment to support trade-related administrative and regulatory activities of developing country governments, e.g., computer hardware/software, installation of data systems, placement of testing laboratories/equipment.

Part II. Technical Assistance by Subject

This chapter presents by an inventory by subject area of major WTO-related programs of technical assistance available to the nations and trade institutions of sub-Saharan Africa.

ACCESSION TO THE WTO

Thirty-eight sub-Saharan African countries are already members of the WTO. Applications for accession of the Seychelles and Sudan are pending. No applications have yet been received from Cape Verde, the Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, or Somalia. Accession is a sometimes difficult and prolonged process due to the intricate series of requirements and concessions that are negotiated in the areas of tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and other specific areas regulated under the GATT'94/WTO framework of rules for global trade. Technical assistance to facilitate the application and accession process is available from a number of agencies, but primarily from the WTO itself.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Assistance with accession is one of the ten focus areas for the WTO's current three-year program for technical cooperation (1999-2001). Driven by country requests, such assistance usually takes one or more of the following forms:

- **Seminars** (regional, sub-regional, national) to explain the accession process and requirements.
- **Briefing Sessions** in Geneva for the trade officials of countries either already in the process of accession or considering accession.
- **Technical Missions** during which WTO officials explain the accession process and requirements and assist countries to pull together information required for the application.

The WTO Manual on Technical Cooperation and Training (<http://www.wto.org/tct/ctd14.htm>) explains how to request technical assistance for accession. Information on accession may be obtained from the WTO Accessions Division. Requests for assistance should be sent to the Technical Cooperation and Training Division (TCTD) before the end of the year preceding the year in which such assistance is to be delivered. The WTO TCTD, the Accessions Division, and other substantive divisions work with countries to define modalities/modes, contents, logistics, and funding for such assistance. More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on WTO accession assistance, contact:

ARIF HUSSAIN DIRECTOR
 ACCESSIONS DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION/WTO
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5611
 FAX: 41-22-739-5776
 EMAIL: ARIF.HUSSAIN@WTO.ORG

and/or

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR,
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site : <http://www.wto.org>

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program (JITAP)

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) is jointly administered by the WTO, UNCTAD, and the International Trade Centre. It is designed to help African countries improve their export competitiveness and participate more fully in the multilateral trading system. Funded through a trust fund established by the founding agencies, JITAP receives operating funds from the founding agencies as well as other national and international donors. At present, the JITAP focuses on eight African nations—Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda—all of which are already WTO members. Based upon experience with this initial group of nations, the JITAP may be extended to other African nations as well.

JITAP technical assistance for accession includes:

- **Briefing sessions** in Geneva on the accession process for staff of country missions to the WTO and for visiting trade officials.
- **Technical missions** to JITAP-assisted countries to discuss and assist with the procedures and requirements of the accession process.

More detailed information on JITAP and its technical assistance activities is in Part III of this guide.

For more information on JITAP WTO accession assistance, contact:

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5207
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

Bilateral Assistance Programs

Some bilateral donors provide technical assistance on WTO accession. For example, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ, German Agency for Technical Cooperation) provides WTO experts to assist national officials in the preparation of documents required for WTO accession and gives targeted technical advice on legal and trade policy reforms required for compliance with GATT/WTO rules. More detailed information on GTZ and its technical activities is in Part III of this guide.

For information on accession assistance from GTZ, contact:

KINKA GERKE UNGER
WTO EXPERT
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GTZ)
DAG-HAMMARSKJOLD-WEG 1-5,
POSTFACH 5180,
65726 ESCHBORN, GERMANY
TEL: +49-6196-790
FAX: +49-6196-1115

GTZ Web Site: <http://www.gtz.de>

AGRICULTURAL TRADE/URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round resulted in the first effective set of international rules governing trade in agriculture. These new rules, incorporated into the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, require tariffication (conversion to tariff equivalents) of all non-tariff barriers to agricultural imports, reduction and binding of tariffs, and minimum access commitments for imports previously banned or restricted. Rules on export subsidies and domestic support programs were also imposed. Trade ministers also recognized that implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, especially liberalization of trade in agriculture, could cause temporary problems for developing countries that are net-food importers. They accordingly encouraged differential treatment for agricultural export credits, as well as financial and technical assistance under aid programs to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure.

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Founded in 1945 and headquartered in Rome, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the preeminent international organization for discussion of and assistance with agricultural policy and planning, food security issues, dissemination of agricultural/food information and analyses, and world trade in food and agricultural commodities. The FAO implements advisory and technical assistance programs and advises governments on all aspects of agricultural and food matters, including fostering better understanding and implementation of the Uruguay Round's Agreement on Agriculture.

The FAO's Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), which provides technical assistance and services through in-country, sub-regional, and regional programs and projects, is managed by the FAO Technical Cooperation Department. The TCP affords technical assistance to developing countries for capacity building for policy analysis and formulation relating to WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, as well as the interface between that Agreement and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS), which involves adopting international standards for food quality and inspection. More specifically, the FAO provides:

- **Design and organization of training programs** for agricultural policy and sectoral analysis, planning, and formation.
- **Training programs** for government officials on Uruguay Round agreement requirements (Agriculture, SPS).
- **Training materials** addressing international trade in agriculture-related Uruguay Round agreements, and application and enforcement of food/agricultural standards.
- **Studies** on the long-term outlooks and trends in agricultural commodities and food security.

Of special relevance to the WTO Seattle Ministerial Conference and the new WTO-sponsored round of multilateral trade negotiations, in 1996 the member countries of the FAO mandated that the organization help them prepare for negotiations in agriculture. With the assistance of several other international organizations and donors, the FAO has created a worldwide program of workshops for developing countries to help them

- Understand fully the *existing* WTO agreements, their rights and obligations thereunder, and problems in their implementation that may require further negotiations;

- Analyze *new* issues likely to arise in the negotiating process and the implications of proposed new international rules in agriculture and other international agreements for their national economies; and
- Consider special issues of regional or sub-regional concern.

As part of the program for assistance in future agricultural and other trade negotiations, the FAO has

- Provided information on electronic access to sources of information covering interpretation, impact analyses, transition measures, Uruguay Round implementation issues, and negotiating proposals;
- Developed a training kit covering in detail the Agriculture Agreement, and the SPS and TRIPS Agreements (as they relate to trade in agriculture);
- Sponsored symposia and conferences on (a) the interrelationship between agriculture, food security, and economic development; (b) likely issues in forthcoming negotiations on agriculture from the point of view of developing countries, in particular their concerns to improve market access, reduce levels of trade-distorting domestic support, eliminate export subsidies, and ensure trade in products of new technologies is based on transparent, predictable, timely, and science-based approval processes; and (c) options with regard to domestic support, market access, and export competition; and
- Conducted conferences on WTO obligations relating to agricultural and food standards, in particular the Uruguay Round Agreements on SPS and technical barriers to trade (TBT) with a conference in Africa scheduled for Harare in Spring 2000.

FAO also provides the following services:

- **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)**, which provides information for implementing the WTO's Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries;
- **Statistics** on the food security of WTO Member countries relative to the Agriculture Agreement's provisions on export prohibitions/restrictions; and
- **Technical assistance** via the FAO/World Health Organization's Codex Alimentarius Commission on issues related to sanitary and food standards.

More details on the FAO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on international trade in agriculture and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, contact:

JAMES GREENFIELD, DIRECTOR
 COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION
 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
 VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA,
 00100 ROME, ITALY
 TEL: 39-06-570-53856
 FAX: 39-06-570-54495
 EMAIL: JAMES.GREENFIELD@FAO.ORG

For information on the FAO Training Program in Forthcoming WTO multilateral negotiations, contact:

POLICY ASSISTANCE DIVISION
 FAO
 TEL: 39-06-570-54838
 FAX: 39-06-570-55107
 EMAIL: MARIAGRAZIA.QUIETI@FAO.ORG
 OR POLICY-TRAINING@FAO.ORG

FAO's *general* Web Site is: <http://www.fao.org>
 Its *policy* Web Site is <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/TCD/Tca/default.htm>
 Its *policy training* Web Sites is: <http://www.fao.org/tc/tca/ptrain.htm>

World Bank Agriculture Projects

The World Bank has designed a project for an integrated program of research, policy analyses, and capacity building to enhance the participation of developing countries in any future WTO-sponsored round of multilateral trade negotiations. The WTO 2000 program will involve:

- Quantitative research and policy analyses of the interests of developing countries in the agricultural issues of any new trade negotiation agenda;
- Production of a handbook on agricultural trade issues for policymakers and negotiators, describing likely agricultural issues and including a set of databases and software tools to access policy proposals;
- Conferences/workshops to disseminate and discuss the analytical results with policy advisers and key decision makers in developing countries. Conference topics include:
 - Regional and Country Case Studies;
 - Market Access, Domestic Support, and Export;
 - Subsidy Commitments;
 - Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical;
 - Barriers to Trade;
 - Quantitative Assessments of Policy Options;
 - Effects of Liberalization in Non-Agricultural;
 - Sectors on Trade in Agriculture;
 - Agriculture and Environmental Standards; and
 - Agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights.

A conference on "Agriculture and the New Trade Agenda from a Development Perspective: Interests and Options in the WTO 2000 Negotiations" will be held in Washington, D.C. on 11-12 January 2000.

- Regional training workshops for senior policymakers on:
 - The WTO agreements and the multilateral framework for global trade rules; and
 - Use of analytical tools and databases to evaluate effects of specific negotiating options.

These workshops are scheduled for African countries in Spring and Fall 2000.

- Post-Seattle Ministerial Research on the agenda and negotiating modalities of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.
- Country-specific analyses of negotiating options and trade-offs, plus action-oriented policy briefs with synthesis of research results.

More details on World Bank technical assistance activities are in Part III of this Guide.

For more information on the World Bank's general technical assistance activities, contact:

PHILIP ENGLISH
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 1818 "H" STREET, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20433
 TEL: 202-473-6483
 FAX: 202-676-9810
 EMAIL: PENGLISH@WORLDBANK.ORG

For specific information on the World Bank Agriculture Projects, contact:

MERLINDA INGCO
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 TEL: 202-473-3860
 FAX: 202-522-1674
 EMAIL: MINGCO@WORLDBANK.ORG

World Bank web site: <http://www.worldbank.org/trade>

Other Agriculture-Focused Technical Assistance

The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO in Geneva has published a guide to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL
 TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0276
 FAX: 41-22-730-4439
 EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

For detailed information on the ITC, see Part III of this guide.

Australia has pledged AS 1 billion over four years (1998–2002) for food security activities. This will involve helping developing countries respond to issues identified in the WTO Ministerial Decision Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries.

For information contact:

TONY NEWMAN, A/G DIRECTOR
 AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST SECTION
 AUSAID
 GPO Box 887
 CANBERRA ACT 2601, AUSTRALIA
 TEL: 61-2-6206-4770
 FAX: 61-2-6206-4062
 EMAIL: TONYNEWMAN@AUSAID.GOV.AU

Web Site: <http://www.usaid.gov.au>

For details on Australia's technical assistance programs see Part III of this guide.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture makes is the Agriculture ministry for the United States Government. It makes available technical assistance or information to developing nations through two programs: (1) the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and (2) the Economic Research Service (ERS).

Foreign Agriculture Service

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is the agency that represents the U.S. Government's agricultural interests abroad, primarily through agricultural attaches posted in various foreign countries. However, through its International Cooperation and Development Program, it provides certain USAID-funded technical assistance and research through two FAS units:

- The Development Resources Division, which provides technical advisers to USAID in the areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment, and design and implementation of development activities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment (in cooperation with USAID), multilateral development banks, international agencies, and host country governments.
- The Research and Scientific Exchanges Division, which provides workshops on technical, research, and agribusiness topics, and resident advisers in developing countries in agricultural policy, research, and agribusiness development.

FAS's technical assistance activities on trade aspects of SPS standards include the following:

- In May 1999, FAS hosted a comprehensive **program on the trade implications of international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards**. FAS invited two participants from 20 sub-Saharan African countries to take part in seminars and workshops to review SPS and other food safety issues, as well as the work of international bodies such as the WTO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The objective of the program was to provide government officials from these countries with a better understanding of internationally accepted standards and to convince them of the importance of active participation in the international bodies that set these standards.
- FAS transferred \$30,000 to FAO to help support **risk analysis and food standards workshops** in conjunction with the Codex Commission's Regional meetings in Africa. The

principal goal of these activities is to increase awareness of SPS and food safety issues and encourage the participation of officials from these countries in international Codex meetings.

- The U.S. conducted five **meetings with developing countries**, including eight African nations, to raise issues of mutual concern that are before the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to encourage the active participation of these countries in Codex meetings.
- FAS has also supported training and workshops in conjunction with the **U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission**. In 1998, USDA supported several series of workshops in South Africa. These workshops were technical training initiatives designed to develop and share import requirements and risk assessment methodologies. These programs assist South African efforts in making sanitary and phytosanitary decisions based on sound scientific principles. They also foster cooperation and encourage trade by sharing critical information concerning import and export requirements and expectations. These workshops covered a wide range of subjects, including USDA's policy of regionalization, animal health risk assessment procedures, and plant protection and quarantine risk assessment practices.

All of these workshops and training programs promote greater transparency and an increased understanding of WTO responsibilities and obligations. Other technical food safety workshops and assessments are being planned in early 1999, including a food safety assessment exchange between the United States and South Africa, which will allow food regulatory agencies in both countries to examine each other's food safety regimes and begin working toward mutual acceptance.

Economic Research Service

Economic Research Service undertakes extensive GATT/WTO-related research studies and maintains an informative "WTO Briefing Room" web site as a one-stop source for information and economic analysis of international agricultural trade issues and the WTO. The Briefing Room web site provides detailed information on:

- WTO rules for agricultural trade,
- Implementation of the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture,
- Technical barriers to trade in agriculture,
- State trading enterprises' involvement in agricultural trade,
- Regional trade agreements, and
- Glossary of agricultural and trade-related terms.

For more information on the technical assistance activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service, contact:

HOWARD ANDERSON
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
ROOM 3219 (STOP 1087),
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-1087
TEL: 202-690-1924
EMAIL: ANDERSONH@FAS.USDA.GOV

For more information on Economic Research Service activities involving international trade in agriculture, contact:

CHERYL CHRISTENSEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
STAFF ANALYSIS & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
MARKET ECONOMICS DIVISION,
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
ROOM 5120N MST,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TEL: 202-694-5200
FAX: 202-694-5792
EMAIL: CHERYLC@ECONAG.GOV

Web Sites for the Department of Agriculture's FAS - Development Resources Division:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/drd/drd.html>

Web Site for the FAS Research and Scientific Exchanges Division:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/rsed/res-scient-exchanges.html>

Web Site for the Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service:

<http://www.econ.ag.gov/briefing/wto>

See also: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/policy/gatt/gatt.html>

CAPACITY-BUILDING: GATT/WTO-RELATED

“Capacity-building” covers both human resource development and institutional strengthening. In this sense, nearly all of the technical assistance and training programs profiled here involve capacity building. However, we are here concerned only with *GATT/WTO* capacity-building. Even so, nearly all of the organizations profiled here play a role. Rather than repeat all the possibilities for capacity-building technical assistance for each substantive area—more than 30 Articles of the GATT’94 and over 20 Uruguay Round agreements—we highlight here the *generic* forms of assistance made available by the organizations profiled.

World Trade Organization - WTO

The WTO is the focal point for most of the technical assistance described in this guide. It administers, manages, interprets, and applies the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules; resolves disputes arising out of that framework; conducts multilateral negotiations to change or enlarge that framework. The WTO also represents the single largest repository of expertise and experience with that body of rules of any of the organizations profiled here.

The WTO makes its expertise available primarily to developing nations—and particularly to least-developed countries—directly or indirectly in partnership with other organizations and sources, through a broad range of forms of technical assistance. The goal of these activities is to enhance the competence of government trade and other officials and to strengthen and equip the administrative and regulatory institutions that must implement GATT/WTO rules. These activities include the following:

- **Seminars** (national, sub-regional, regional) describing and illustrating the application of the Uruguay Round agreements and the procedures, processes, and operation of the WTO as an institution—or focusing on technical areas such as trade remedies, customs valuation, standards (SPS/TBT), TRIPS, and requirements for meeting Member’s GATT/ WTO obligations. These seminars may last a few hours or up to five or more days. An example is the “Geneva Week” for non-resident delegations of Member countries or officials of countries in the process of accession.
- **Workshops** on areas of trade policy analysis, formation, or implementation. These may involve talks, theoretical explanations, case studies, or simulations related to the analysis and resolution of a particular area. These workshops may last a few hours or up to a few days.
- **Missions to Member countries** (or countries in the process of WTO accession) often referred to as “briefing” or “technical” missions. These missions are designed to assist trade and other officials to understand and respond to responsibilities arising from the provisions of the GATT’94 or the Uruguay Round agreements or WTO internal procedures (dispute resolution, negotiations, meetings). These may involve meeting consultation or notification requirements, or transparency-focused administration of trade remedies, customs valuation, and standards conformity assessment. These missions may last for a few days or up to a few weeks.
- **Training courses** with defined curricula and performance objectives, developed to enhance competency in either trade policy development, the implementation (administrative,

regulatory, enforcement) of WTO agreements or productive participation in dispute resolution, consultation, or negotiations (for example, meaningful participation in any new round of multilateral trade negotiations). Training courses usually last a few days or up to a month or more.

- **Legal/legislative assistance** provides legal advisory opinions on issues arising under WTO agreements, provisions or in connection with dispute settlement—or legislative review, commentary, drafting with respect to national laws/regulations/legislation to ensure its conformity with WTO obligations.
- **Infrastructure support**—strengthening trade-related institutions of Member countries (or those in the process of accession) through establishment of WTO Reference Centers (internet connection, documentary resources, training for information gathering, networking capabilities), and installation of computer hardware/software for example, a CD-ROM permitting Internet “distance learning” in the GATT/WTO system and agreements.
- **Interactive guides** to the WTO, the WTO and Developing Countries, Reading WTO Schedules, the Dispute Settlement Process, Uruguay Round Agreements, Directory of Trade Policy Educational and Training Resources, Directory of Internet Trade and Development Links, and others.

All of these forms of capacity building technical assistance and services are available from the WTO through its Technical Cooperation and Training Division.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For additional information on WTO capacity-building assistance, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION – WTO
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5611
 FAX: 41-22-739-5776
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

UNCTAD’s “Positive Agenda for Trade” focuses its technical assistance for African countries on capacity-building in (a) the identification and analysis of international trade-related issues; (b) trade policy formation and negotiations; and (c) assistance with regard to WTO accession requirements/procedures. It:

- Supports international trade policy discussions;
- Provides training in its TRAINFORTRADE Program as well as courses in Commercial Diplomacy (trade representation and negotiation);
- Provides trade information through its Trade Points program;
- Provides infrastructure support via its Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and its Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS).

UNCTAD's other major program—"Comprehensive New Plan of Action"—was designed to enhance the ability of developing nations to participate meaningfully and effectively based on their national interests in the WTO Seattle Ministerial Conference and any new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Under the program, UNCTAD helps identify issues having special impact on the developmental interests of countries and provides training in effective negotiation and participation in any new round. Finally, UNCTAD funds a weeklong training course in "International Economic Law, Dispute Settlement, and International Organizations" in Geneva for developing nations' trade officials.

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on UNCTAD's capacity-building-focused technical assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
 TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
 DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND COMMODITIES
 UNCTAD
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-907-5920
 FAX: 41-22-907-0044
 EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD Web Sites:

For the Positive Agenda for Trade: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

For other technical cooperation programs: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

For general description of UNCTAD activities: <http://www.unctad.org>

UN Food and Agriculture Organization– FAO

The FAO is one of the most prominent forums for the discussion of, and technical cooperation with regard to, international trade in agricultural commodities and food security and other issues. In addition to its comprehensive needs assessment of developing countries' capacity-building requirements in this area and their implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, it conducts training programs, produces training and other documentary materials, and undertakes studies relating to all aspects of agricultural commodities trade and food issues. These include:

- **Training programs** in policy analysis and development, formulation of food quality standards, safety issues and SPS requirements for risk analysis/assessment, inspection techniques/procedures, food laboratory management, production/consumption tracking, and trade statistics aggregation/utilization.
- **Training manuals** covering food inspection, food for export, and fish inspection and quality assurance.
- **Workshops and regional conferences/seminars** on WTO-related topics for farmers' organizations and on Uruguay Round Agreement requirements for government officials, such as the relationship between trade and plant protection.
- **Legal review/legislative drafting** for WTO-consistent national legislation.

The FAO has also undertaken a special program of capacity building to enhance the participation of developing country negotiators in any future negotiations affecting agriculture and food policies. These include:

- Provision of **information on electronic access** to sources of information covering interpretation, impact analyses, transition measures, Uruguay Round implementation issues, and negotiating proposals in future multilateral trade negotiations.
- Development of a **training kit** providing information for the foregoing and providing detailed information on the Uruguay Round Agriculture Agreement and the SPS and TRIPS Agreements (as they relate to trade in Agriculture).
- Sponsorship of **symposia and conferences** on the interrelationships between agriculture, food security, and economic development; the role of agricultural trade in the multilateral trading system; likely issues in forthcoming negotiations in Agriculture affecting developing nations' interests; and options relating to domestic support, market access, and export competition.
- **Conferences on WTO obligations** relating to agricultural and food standards, in particular the Uruguay Round Agreements on SPS and TBT.

(A conference on these topics is scheduled for Harare in the Spring 2000.)

More details on the FAO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on FAO's training program for the forthcoming WTO multilateral trade negotiations, contact the:

POLICY ASSISTANCE DIVISION
 U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)
 VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA
 00 100 ROME, ITALY
 TEL: 39-06-570-54838
 FAX: 39-06-570-55107
 EMAIL: MARIAGRAZIA.QUIETI@FAO.ORG
 OR: POLICY-TRAINING@FAO.ORG

For more information on technical assistance on international trade in Agriculture and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, contact:

JAMES GREENFIELD, DIRECTOR
 COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION
 U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)
 TEL: 39-06-570-53856
 FAX: 39-06-570-54495
 EMAIL: JAMES.GREENFIELD@FAO.ORG

FAO's *general* Web Site is: <http://www.fao.org>

Its *policy* Web Site is <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/TCD/Tca/default.htm>

Its *policy training* Web Sites is: <http://www.fao.org/tc/tca/ptrain.htm>

World Customs Organization – WCO

The World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, *inter alia*, promotes and facilitates customs administration (classification, valuation, liquidation, and entry). It administers international conventions on the nomenclature (classification of goods), harmonization of commodity description and coding (the "Harmonized System"), and the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures. The WCO provides customs officials and their governments with various forms of

capacity-building assistance, including regional/national seminars, missions, training courses, fellowship programs, and technical assistance services. These include:

- **Customs Reform and Modernization Program (CRM)**, the WCO's most important capacity building activity. This features a customs integrity workshop. A regional customs integrity workshop for east and southern Africa region (16 countries) will be offered in January 2000.
- **Regional/National Seminars** (5 days, English and French) on:
 - amendment of the HS System and requirements for its uniform interpretation and application;
 - implementing the [WTO] Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - technical, organizational, and legal aspects of an automated customs administration;
 - development of a workplan and structure of customs operations for the control of chemicals and drugs;
 - combating commercial fraud and protection of intellectual property rights (funded by private companies cooperating with the WCO);
 - methods for dealing with money laundering and the proceeds of criminal activities;
 - profiling and risk assessment for enforcement against carriers of smuggled goods; and
 - simplification and modernization of national customs procedures.
- **Expert Missions** (3-5 days, English and French) relating to:
 - customs valuation: examination of existing valuation procedures and implementation difficulties;
 - Customs Valuation Agreement obligations/requirements;
 - measures for the effective application of the Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - diagnosing weaknesses in Customs administration fraud enforcement and recommendations for enhancement of enforcement efforts;
 - mechanisms for dealing with valuation fraud under the Customs Valuation Agreement; and
 - WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices: operations and sharing of information for Customs enforcement.
- **Technical assistance missions** (5 days, English) on:
 - simplifying customs procedures;
 - information technology and electronic commerce: the UN/EDIFACT standard and interface for exchange of business data;
 - evaluation of a country's proposed information technology system prior to putting it into operation and its conformance with internationally-agreed standards; and
 - techniques for country review of national Customs administration procedures and processes.
- **Advisory missions on Rules of Origin** (2-3 days, English, French, and Spanish), including implications of the draft Harmonized Rules of Origin convention and WTO/Uruguay Round agreements considerations/concerns.
- **Regional/national training courses** (5-10 days, English and French) (training courses are more formal and detailed than seminars and take the form of lectures supplemented by practical exercises) seminars are delivered on:

- development, structure, classification principles of the Harmonized System (HS);
 - application/implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - techniques of information/intelligence gathering for customs enforcement;
 - surveillance and controls to combat traffic in hazardous materials and endangered species;
 - Middle Managers' course in development of skills in customs administration human and resource management;
 - commercial fraud investigators' course —skills for developing investigative procedures, fraud analysis techniques and intelligence gathering; and
 - benefits of customs/business cooperation and use of business information for risk assessment.
- **Technical assistance services**
 - study for national customs authorities of the time required for release of goods and analysis and recommendations for efficient, effective operation of the country's customs clearance procedures (5 days, English and French);
 - assistance with simplification and modernization of customs procedures and accession to the Kyoto Convention and other international arrangements (1-2 weeks, English and French);
 - assistance for combating transshipment fraud (5 days, English and French); and
 - training of trainers in member countries in communications skills and use of interactive and progressive training methods (10 days, English).
 - **Fellowship programs**, including fellowships at WCO/Brussels for customs middle managers to develop skills in customs administration and related human resources management with studies in specialized fields selected by Fellow and field trips to various countries' customs offices (20 days in Brussels, 10 days with a sponsoring national customs administration).
 - **WCO Website**, which features posting of commodity classification decisions taken by the WCO Harmonized System Committee publishing a complete description of goods, six digit HS classification, and the legal basis for the decision, with amendments to Explanatory Notes and Classification opinions, lists of HS Convention Contracting Parties, agenda, working documents and reports of the Committee. Includes a request form for classification advice from WCO.

More details on the WCO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the WCO's capacity-building assistance contact:

MR. JÁNOS NAGY
 HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
 WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
 B-1210 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
 TEL: 32-2-209-9445
 FAX: 32-2-209-9496
 EMAIL: JANOS.NAGY@WCOOMD.ORG

WCO Web Site: <http://www.wcoomd.org>

International Organization for Standardization – ISO

A non-governmental organization, the ISO's members are national standards bodies from some 130 countries. The ISO was founded to promote the development of standardization and related activities in order to facilitate the international exchange of goods and services and to support cooperation in the standardization and quality assessment and certification thereof. Standardization implies consensus and consistently applied specifications and criteria in the choice and classification of materials, products, and provision of services.

The ISO helps developing countries formulate, assess, certify and enforce standardization by (a) identifying needs and requirements; (b) designing measures to help meet their needs; and (c) providing technical assistance and services. Through its Committee on Developing Country Matters, the ISO offers training seminars and publishes manuals on standards-related topics; delivers technical services to exporters on the standards requirements of importing countries; sponsors workshops on consumer involvement in standardization; and arranges conferences and symposia covering developments in standards testing and certification. These programs include:

- Development of training manuals on:
 - establishment and management of a National Standards Body;
 - conformity assessment;
 - training of technical staff at the national and company level;
 - teaching of standardization in institutions of higher learning in developing countries;
 - development and organization of a company standards department;
 - application of standards;
 - participation in international standardization;
 - organization and development of a National Standards Information Centre;
 - establishment and operation of a testing laboratory for a National Standards Body;
 - guidelines for selecting and adopting/adapting international standards for national use; and
 - introduction to standardization and its uses in exports.

The ISO's other technical assistance activities include:

- Identification and accommodation of standardization needs in developing countries.
- Training, consisting of regional training seminars, fellowships in standards-related institutions, assistance in the arrangement of placements in appropriate training institutions, and training of technical officers for ISO technical committee secretariat functions.
- Financing member participation in ISO standards committee meetings.
- Assistance to member bodies in identifying new international standardization projects in areas of economic importance and coordinating actions for launching a standards initiative.
- Provision of documentation and information systems.
- Preparation of standards promotional materials.

More details on the ISO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the ISO's standards capacity-building assistance activities, contact:

ANWAR EL-TAWIL, DIRECTOR
 PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
 1, RUE DE VAREMBE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-749-0111
 FAX: 41-22-749-0151
 EMAIL: ELTAWIL@ISO.CH

ISO Web Site: <http://www.iso.ch>

World Intellectual Property Organization –WIPO

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) promotes the protection of intellectual property worldwide. Intellectual property includes industrial property (patents, trademarks, industrial designs) and copyright (literary, musical, and artistic works). WIPO administers the principal international intellectual property conventions and the registration of industrial property rights thereunder.

WIPO's technical assistance activities are focused on developing countries through its Technical Cooperation for Development Program. Those activities involve (1) technical cooperation with developing countries, and (2) the WIPO Worldwide Academy and Human Resources Development. Overall, WIPO's IPR-focused technical assistance includes:

- Modernization of intellectual property systems,
- Implementation of the Uruguay Round's Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS),
- Addressing new intellectual property challenges,
- Promotion and development of the use of intellectual property-facilitating/enforcement systems, and
- Promotion of cooperation among developing countries with IPR-related international organizations.

WIPO's main capacity-building assistance programs include:

- "Distance Learning" through the WIPO Worldwide Academy,
- Professional training, and
- Policy-level training.

More particularly, WIPO's Human Resources Development/WIPO Worldwide Academy include:

- Information technology-based training, teaching, and advisory services, including promotion of institutional networking and distance learning programs and support to regional capacity-building for training and public awareness:
 - collaboration with academic institutions and governmental agencies for adaptation of existing course materials into distance learning modules;
 - establishment of a studio equipped for distance learning (e.g., video-conferencing, virtual classes, electronic conferences, on-line teaching services;
 - distance learning courses on patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright, and international registration systems;

- Production of new curricula, courses, and teaching materials, including recommendations and advice for curricula development, lists of reference sources, and development of university/experts network for development of region-specific training courses and materials.
- Inter-regional training courses, fellowships and internships.
- Cooperation on the coordination and planning of training, including inter-regional courses and seminars (60) and study visits (161 participants).
- Fellowships in cooperation with national institutions (fellowships granted, 22; internships for six-week training at WIPO/Geneva, 13).
- Fora on intellectual property for policy advisers.
- Enhanced national capacity to analyze and implement new policy directions for IP and economic development and related policies, including general WIPO Academy sessions in Geneva (3, with 43 participants from at least 28 countries), and special sessions (2) on TRIPS implementation (25 participants/12 countries) and on Enforcement of IP Rights (16 participants/14 countries).
- General orientation and learning conferences on enhanced national capacity in use of IP systems for promotion of innovative knowledge-based enterprises and improved competitiveness in domestic and international markets, both international/regional symposia/seminars (5 events /230 participants) and studies on establishment of innovation centers in developing countries (2).
- Joint WIPO-WTO assistance for TRIPS and IPR protection/enforcement through joint symposia/workshops on IPR legislation, the TRIPS Agreement, and IPR enforcement, and joint missions to assist WTO Member countries to meet the January 1, 2000 deadline for implementation of the TRIPS.

More details on WIPO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on WIPO's capacity-building assistance, contact:

GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, DIRECTOR
 COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/AFRICA BUREAU
 WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
 34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-338-9111
 FAX: 41-22-338-8840
 EMAIL: GEOFFREY.O NYEAMA@WIPO.INT

WIPO Web Site: <http://www.wipo.int>

World Bank

The World Bank Institute works with partner organizations to develop and disseminate knowledge through training programs designed to build the capacity of institutions in developing countries in the areas of economic policy. To this end, the World Bank operates three programs directly focused on capacity building: (1) its core course on "Global Integration and the New Trade Agenda"; (2) the "WTO 2000 Project"; and (3) the World Bank Agriculture Project.

Assistance available under the "Global Integration/New Trade Agenda" Project includes:

- Economics of key policy issues that arise in the regulation of trade and investment—experience of policy implementation and evaluation of potential new multilateral trade rules in these areas.
- Familiarization with computerized analytical tools to evaluate policy options, e.g., available international data sets in international trade/Investment, popular indices, measures and descriptive statistics used to analyze trends and changes in variables over time.
- Introduction to and assessment of the rules of the WTO-involving lectures, computer laboratory time providing users with practical tools for commercial policy analysis.

(The World Bank will be offering this course in Cape Town, South Africa on 17-22 January 2000 covering the first two items.)

Assistance under the WTO 2000 Project includes:

- Preparation of 40 region or country-specific research papers by developing country scholars, incorporating information obtained in regional meetings.
- Regional workshops to discuss findings of research papers.

(The World Bank is scheduling workshops for West Africa in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 13-15 December 1999 with subsequent workshops planned for Eastern Africa in January-February 2000 and Southern Africa in February-March 2000)

- Preparation of a Handbook for Trade Negotiators for use in any forthcoming round of multilateral trade negotiations.
- Courses for policymakers/advisers on major international trade issues

Assistance under the World Bank Agriculture Project—focused specifically on future agricultural trade negotiations—include:

- **Quantitative research and policy analysis** of the interests of developing countries in the Agricultural issues of any new trade negotiation round
- Production of a **handbook on agricultural trade issues** for policymakers /negotiators describing likely issues and including a set of agricultural-related databases and software tools to access policy proposals.
- **Conferences/workshops** for policy advisers on topics including regional and country case studies, market access, domestic support, and export subsidy commitments. Also included are such topics as sanitary measures and technical barriers to trade, quantitative assessment of policy options, and effects of liberalization in non-agricultural sectors on the agricultural sector, agriculture and environmental standards, and agriculture and intellectual property rights.
- **Country-specific analyses** of negotiating options and trade-offs.

(A conference on “Agriculture and the New Trade Agenda From a Development Perspective: Interests and Options in the WTO 2000 Negotiations” will be held in Washington, D.C. on 11-12 January 2000.)

More detailed information on the World Bank's technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the World Bank's general technical assistance activities, contact:

PHILIP ENGLISH
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 1818 "H" STREET, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20433
 TEL: 202-473-6483
 FAX: 202-676-9810
 EMAIL: PENGLISH@WORLD BANK.ORG

For specific information on the World Bank Agriculture Project, contact:

MERLINDA INGO
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 TEL: 202-473-3860
 FAX: 202-522-1674
 EMAIL: MINGCO@WORLD BANK.ORG

World Bank Web site: <http://www.worldbank.org/trade>

European Union – EU

The European Union's WTO-related programs are now moving into the center of its developmental assistance activities. Its range of technical assistance activities depends on a recipient country's request, but includes:

- Training of public officials/private sector representatives on WTO-related issues via seminars.
- Provision of EU personnel or contracted outside experts to assist officials of developing countries with WTO-related matters.
- Funding of ACP country trade representatives in WTO proceedings in Geneva.
- Internships for young civil servants in Geneva positions related to the WTO and the multilateral trading system.
- Surveys of national laws/legislation that need changes to comply with WTO rights and obligations.

More detailed information on the EU's technical assistance activities may be found in Part III of this guide.

For more information on EU technical assistance, contact:

MR. INGO FEUSTEL
 CHEF DE DIVISION
 TRADE POLICY
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT
 (EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
 FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH AFRICA,
 THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE PACIFIC;
 LOMÉ CONVENTION).
 PHONE: +32-2-299-2528
 FAX: +32-2-299-4895
 EMAIL: INGO.FEUSTEL@DG8.CEC.BE

The European Commission Web Site: <http://europa.eu.int>
 Information on its technical assistance programs is at:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/evaluation/index.htm>

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

The ITC is a technical cooperation organization jointly funded by the United Nations and the WTO. Its mission is to support developing and transition economies, and particularly their business sectors, in increasing their participation in international trade with the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable economic development. In the area of the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade, it works principally with business enterprises to improve their ability to meet the new obligations and take full advantage of their rights to expanded trade under the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round agreements.

Among the ITC's major GATT/WTO-related major technical assistance activities are programs dealing with:

- **Business and the WTO Agreements:** The World Tr@de Net, which implements the ITC's Capacity Development Initiative, is designed to create and to provide ongoing technical and operational support to national networks concerned with the business implications of the GATT/WTO and the Uruguay Round agreements and the evolving multilateral trading system. The program does so through regular field consultations, workshops, and expanded technical support (reference and training materials) through the World Tr@de Net web page. The program is also designed to equip the business community to receive timely information on emerging issues for negotiation so as to dialogue with trade negotiators and advise their opinions on negotiating positions.
- **Export quality and packaging management,** a program designed to enable small and mid-sized exporting enterprises to understand and meet product quality and packaging requirements (health, safety, environmental) based on international standards and, in particular, the Uruguay Round SPS and TBT Agreements.
- **Trade in services,** a program developed to pursue enhancement of the ability of developing countries to nurture, support, and sustain export growth in their service sectors by ensuring that service firms understand and are able to take advantage of the export opportunities available under the Uruguay Round's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). This includes publication of a Business guide to GATS.
- **Public sector procurement,** a program designed to assist developing countries to upgrade national and international public sector procurement systems and practices, including legal, regulatory, and administrative aspects in order to enhance the transparency and cost-effectiveness thereof, and to assist them in understanding the potential benefits of acceding to the Agreement on Government Procurement.
- **Background materials on the Uruguay round and the multilateral trading system,** in which the ITC has developed and provides extensive documentary background materials on various aspects of the Uruguay Round agreements and the multilateral trading system, e.g.,:
 - Business Guide to the Uruguay Round;
 - Manager's Guide to the World Trading System;
 - Trade Maps – Opportunities and Challenges of the New Multilateral Trading System;
 - Anti-Dumping Proceedings: Guidelines for Importers and Exporters ;

- Agreements on TBT and SPS;
- Harmonizing Packaging Practice for Global Markets;
- Successful Services Exporting – A Handbook;
- The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: An Overview;
- Changing Pattern of International Trade in Textiles and Clothing – implications of the introduction of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on the developing countries' producing/exporting textiles and clothing;
- Agreement on Agriculture;
- Trade in information technology products and the WTO agreements;
- Implications of the WTO agreements for international trade in environmental industries.

More details on the ITC and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on the ITC overall technical assistance activities, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
 TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
 DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0276
 FAX: 41-22-733-4439
 EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

For specific information on the ITC's World Trade Net, contact:

SABINE MEITZEL
 PROGRAM COORDINATOR, WORLD TRADE NET
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
 TEL: 41-22-730-0111
 FAX: 41-22-733-4439
 EMAIL: MEITZEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and other African Countries (JITAP) was initiated in 1998 as a joint program of the UNCTAD, WTO, and the International Trade Centre intended to help African countries participate effectively in the multilateral trading system (MTS). JITAP objectives include: (1) enhancing national capacity to understand the WTO agreements and address trade implications thereof; (2) strengthening of trade and export policy formation and negotiating capabilities; (3) improving institutional mechanisms to carry out WTO obligations; (4) developing supply-side responses to Multilateral Trading System (MTS) opportunities; and (5) enhancing their access to export business services and performance tools. The specific forms of technical assistance available to the participating countries (and possibly others in the mid-term future) include:

- Needs assessment and program design, including regional/sub-regional/national seminars:
 - WTO multilateral trading system and the Uruguay Round agreements;

- requirements of specific WTO/Uruguay Round agreements;
 - financial services negotiations and resulting agreement; and
 - trade and the environment.
- Geneva-based workshops for WTO Mission Staff on WTO operations and procedures, and trade and the environment.
 - Geneva-based briefing sessions for WTO Mission Staff and Visiting Government Officials on WTO accession process, and current issues of WTO operations/negotiations.
 - Technical missions to participating countries about WTO notification requirements and WTO accession procedures/issues.
 - Technical services to participating countries for:
 - preparation of national inputs into WTO Trade Policy Reviews;
 - conduct of national surveys on the impact of WTO agreements on the economies of participating countries;
 - legislative commentary/drafting for the updating of national laws/regulations for compatibility with WTO agreements' requirements;
 - analysis of national trade performance;
 - research/analysis of international demand for national exports;
 - product-specific market research and recommendations for promising product/export markets;
 - analysis of enterprise competitiveness/export fitness.
 - Geneva-based Training-for-Trainers course (three weeks, English and French) in Uruguay Round agreements and obligations and adaptation of national trade policies to the MTS.
 - Infrastructure support, including establishment of National Reference Centers to link national trade development networks (public officials, businesspersons, and academics), Global Case Network to share best practices, and Global Electronic Discussion Forum to address issues and assist with problem solving.
 - Information/documentary dissemination e.g., the Business Guide to the Uruguay Round and export management manuals.

More details on JITAP and its programs of technical assistance are in Part III of this guide. For more information on JITAP technical assistance, contact:

At UNCTAD:

MARCEL NAMFUA
 SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISOR/
 COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
 UNCTAD
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-907-5920
 FAX: 41-22-907-0044
 EMAIL: MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

At the World Trade Organization (WTO):

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5207
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

At the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

ABDELKRIM BEN FADHI
 SENIOR TRADE PROMOTION ADVISOR/
 CHIEF TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0359
 FAX: 41-22-730-0570
 EMAIL: BENFADHI@INTRACEN.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

Integrated Framework (IF)

The Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries is a joint initiative of the WTO, World Bank, IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, and UNDP designed to assist LDCs in benefiting from the multilateral trading system by enhancing their trade opportunities, helping them benefit from an export-led development strategy, overcome supply side constraints thereto, and implement the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade.

The IF is driven by the demand of participating countries, and delivery of assistance is coordinated among donor agencies. It provides assistance based on: (1) a country needs assessment; (2) an integrated response by the donors; (3) meetings between donors and participating countries to develop multi-year country-specific programs; (4) coordinated provision of assistance by donors; and (5) evaluation of its implementation and effects. Capacity-building-oriented technical assistance available from the IF includes:

- Specialized national and regional workshops by the **WTO** on the GATT/WTO and the multilateral trading system, assistance with accession, and technical services for implementation of WTO obligations as well as infrastructural support (computers and Internet links via Reference Centers located in Trade ministries).
- Advisory Services by the **World Bank** to improve the national framework in LDCs for foreign investment in infrastructure and assistance in accessing credits for export enterprises;
- Trade Information support by **ITC** through supply of information on current world market prices/trends for priority LDC export products, together with buyer-seller meetings, marketing missions, and specialized workshops to assist enterprises in product and market development.

- Consultancies provided by **UNCTAD** to assess the overall impact of globalization on specific LDCs in order to facilitate policy adaptation to various WTO agreements and enabling countries to maximize benefits from the new trading opportunities.
- Continuous policy dialogue with LDC governments by **UNDP** on modalities for providing operational programs and activities.

More details on IF technical assistance are in Part III of this guide
For additional information on the Integrated Framework, contact:

INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/ITC
PALAIS DES NATIONS
1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0346
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: INFO@LDCS.ORG

IF Web Site : <http://www.ldcs.org>

United Nations Development Program – UNDP

The UNDP is the United Nations' largest source of assistance for development. Its Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project is designed to build the capacity of sub-Saharan African countries to increase the competitiveness of their productive sectors with emphasis on global and regional trade. The program aims to : (1) enable African countries to recognize their development needs and choices and turn them into trade policy; (2) ensure that technical assistance be provided by agencies that have special experience and that can share knowledge, materials, and skills with African countries; (3) strengthen the ability of regional and subregional institutions to coordinate regional cooperation for development and support of member nation trade initiatives; and (4) foster a comprehensive approach to assistance to include all sectors of a country according to the role they play in national trade development/implementation.

Specific focuses of UNDP capacity-building assistance include:

- Preparedness for new multilateral/regional trade negotiations, including understanding of likely issues and better negotiating skills.
- Sensitization to the current WTO framework of rules for global trade.
- Enhancement of policy formation, analysis, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation skills
- Harmonization of systems and procedures
- Development of information networks
- Achieving the linking and coordination of trade initiatives

For achievement of these ends, the UNDP funds or otherwise makes available the following kinds of technical assistance:

- Thematic and country studies by consultants
- Surveys and needs assessments
- Seminars and workshops (regional, sub-regional, national)
- Training of Trainers
- Financing and organizing regional and sub-regional meetings
- Organization of regional information networks, and

- Support of trade promotion centers.

More details on the activities of the UNDP are in Part III of this guide.

For further information on the UNDP's Capacity Building for Trade and Development activities in Africa, contact:

LEBOGANG MOTLANA
 REGIONAL PROGRAM ADVISOR
 OPERATIONS GROUP II/AFRICA
 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
 ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
 NEW YORK, NY 10017
 TEL: 212-906-6012
 FAX: 212-906-5953 OR 5974
 EMAIL: LEBOGANG.MOTLANA@UNDP.ORG

The UNDP Web Site is located at: <http://www.undp.org> For information on the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa: <http://www.undp.org/rba/welcome.htm>.

U.S. Agency for International Development – USAID

USAID makes available technical assistance and services to developing nations and least-developed countries, *inter alia* to promote openness to trade and investment, support agriculture and rural enterprise, strengthen infrastructure, provide adequate incentives for export, reinforce the effectiveness and transparency of policy and regulations, avoid inefficient import substitution and unwarranted protection, and strengthen the development environment for the private sector. USAID's Africa Bureau has two projects directly related to the multilateral trading system and the GATT/WTO framework of international agreements governing global trade: (a) the African Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) Project and (b) a regional program to promote integration in Southern Africa.

ATRIP provides selected African countries with three initiatives

- WTO-related workshops and training programs, among them:
 - WTO Awareness Workshops (1-3 days), with regional and national workshops for trade ministry and private sector officials, dealing with GATT/WTO provisions and Uruguay Round agreements and procedures. The workshops often also consider upcoming WTO negotiations.
 - WTO Agreement-Specific Workshops (1-3 days), featuring follow-up to awareness workshops with in-depth technical assistance workshops addressing specific strategic, legal, or technical requirements of Uruguay Round agreements (e.g., an additional technical workshop on standards and the Uruguay Round Agreements on SPS and TBT).
 - training in International Trade Negotiation (1 week), for which USAID is currently in discussion with selected Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries about provision of training for trade officials in WTO-related negotiation issues.
- **Public/private capacity-building for trade policy development**, in which USAID Missions in certain African countries have initiated trade-policy analysis/formation assistance to both national ministries responsible for trade and local private sector groups with an interest in reducing trade barriers and aligning technical standards with international market requirements:

- in Uganda, the USAID Mission has initiated its “Capacity Building: Uganda Trade Policy” activity which provides assistance to the Government of Uganda and the Ugandan private sector for the development and implementation of trade policy relating to such Uruguay Round agreement areas as: customs valuation; licensing; standards and technical barriers to trade; sanitary standards; agricultural issues; and consistency of national laws with WTO requirements; and
 - in Mozambique, USAID is assisting trade officials and private sector groups to enhance their capacity for trade policy development and to participate more effectively in multilateral trade negotiations, as well as assisting Mozambique to build greater support for further trade liberalization.
- **Assistance for regional trade policy development and negotiations**, in particular through USAID’s Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) in Gaborone, Botswana, is providing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its member countries with assistance to facilitate agreement phased implementation for, the SADC Trade Protocol leading to a Southern African Free Trade Area.

Additionally, USAID’s Regional Trade and Comparative Advantage Project provides a series of analytical studies addressing regional trade issues and the impact of regional trade on agricultural production, comparative advantage, and food security in Eastern and Southern Africa. Results of such analyses are provided to national policymakers to help identify the impacts of evolving trade rules and arrangements.

More details on USAID and its technical assistance programs in Africa are in Part III of this guide.

For USAID Africa technical assistance, please contact:

DAVID P. DOD
ATRIP PROGRAM MANAGER
AFRICA BUREAU/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING, Rm. 4.06-114,
1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-4600
TEL: 202-712-0784
FAX: 202-216-3373
EMAIL: DDOD@USAID.GOV

USAID/Africa Bureau Web Site: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/>.

COMPETITION POLICY

More than 40 developing and transition countries have adopted competition laws as an element of market-oriented development strategies. The First WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Singapore in December 1996 identified "Trade and Competition Policy" as one of four "new issues" that required immediate study and analysis.

The Ministerial Conference established a working group to study issues raised by Members relating to the interaction between trade and competition policy, including anti-competitive practices, "in order to identify any areas that may merit further consideration in the WTO framework." Since Competition Policy is not governed as such under the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade, this guide does not survey technical assistance activities focusing on that subject. The UNCTAD has included discussion of Competition Policies in its Positive Agenda for Trade workshops held in Abidjan and Pretoria in 1999.

CUSTOMS: CUSTOMS VALUATION, RULES OF ORIGIN, TRADE FACILITATION

A country's customs administration regulates the cross-border flow of goods in international trade for the purpose of security, revenue generation (tariffs) and safety/quality considerations. Customs procedures involve classification and valuation of goods and the collection of tariffs and ensure that imported goods meet safety and quality standards for the protection of consumers. Rules of Origin are essential to determine applicable tariffs (MFN, preferential, otherwise applicable tariffs). Although the existence of customs is accepted by the WTO as inherent in the sovereignty of its Member countries, the manner in which customs are administered—beyond accepted security and fiscal purposes—may constitute “non-tariff barriers” (or NTBs) that undercut the WTO's multilateral effort to liberalize global trade. The concept of customs-related trade “facilitation” signifies the initiatives that countries make to promote through administrative measures the liberalization of trade.

The GATT attempted to regulate both classification and valuation by customs administrations in Articles X and VII, respectively. The Uruguay Round Agreement for the Implementation of Article VII (the “Customs Valuation Agreement”) provides an international standard consensus for greater transparency and consistency in the valuation of traded goods. The leading international organization for enhancement and harmonization of customs laws, procedures, and practices is the World Customs Organization, which works closely with the WTO to facilitate developing country implementation of the GATT'94 Article VII and the Agreement on Customs Valuation.

World Customs Organization – WCO

The World Customs Organization is an international organization of 150 member countries. It is intended to (a) establish and administer international instruments for the harmonization and uniform application of customs administration systems and procedures and (b) promote and facilitate member countries' cooperation with each other and with other international organizations to enhance customs administration and combat customs fraud and movement of hazardous materials across borders. It administers conventions on valuation, nomenclature (for classification) and commodity coding (the “Harmonized System of Tariffs” or HST), and recently facilitated a convention for the simplification of customs procedures. It also works with the WTO to provide technical management for the Customs Valuation Agreement.

The WCO provides the customs authorities of its member countries with various forms of technical assistance including regional/national seminars, training programs, technical and expert missions, fellowships, and an Internet page with material useful to such authorities. The goal of such assistance is to realize uniform interpretation and application of the Harmonized System by member countries, enhance the operation of customs laboratories, and equip and prepare customs administrators properly to implement the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation. Its technical assistance activities include:

- Regional/national seminars (5 days – English and French) on:
 - amendment of the HS System and requirements for its uniform interpretation and application;
 - implementing the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - technical, organizational, and legal aspects of an automated customs administration;

- development of a workplan and structure of customs operations for the control of chemicals and drugs;
 - combating commercial fraud and protection of intellectual property rights (funded by private companies cooperating with the WCO);
 - methods for dealing with money laundering and the proceeds of criminal activities;
 - profiling and risk assessment for enforcement against carriers of smuggled goods; and
 - simplification and modernization of national customs procedures.
- Expert missions (3-5 days – English and French) relating to:
 - customs valuation: examination of existing valuation procedures and implementation difficulties;
 - Customs Valuation Agreement obligations/requirements;
 - measures for the effective application of the Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - diagnosing weaknesses in customs administration fraud enforcement and recommendations for enhancement of enforcement efforts;
 - mechanisms for dealing with valuation fraud under the Customs Valuation Agreement; and
 - WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices: operations and sharing of information for customs enforcement.
- Technical assistance missions (5 days - English) on:
 - simplifying customs procedures;
 - information technology and electronic commerce: the UN/EDIFACT standard and interface for exchange of business data;
 - evaluation of a country's proposed information technology system prior to putting it into operation and its conformance with internationally-agreed standards; and
 - techniques for country review of national customs administration procedures and processes.
- Advisory missions on Rules of Origin (2-3 days, English/French/Spanish), focusing on implications of the draft Harmonized Rules of Origin convention and WTO/Uruguay Round agreements considerations/concerns.
- Regional/national training courses (5-10 days, English and French; note: training courses are more formal and detailed than seminars and take the form of lectures supplemented by practical exercises). Courses focus on:
 - development, structure, classification principles of the Harmonized System (HS);
 - application/implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - techniques of information/intelligence gathering for customs enforcement;
 - surveillance and controls to combat traffic in hazardous materials and endangered species;
 - Middle Managers' Course in development of skills in customs administration human and resource management;
 - commercial fraud investigators' course – skills for developing investigative procedures, fraud analysis techniques and intelligence gathering; and
 - benefits of customs/business cooperation and use of business information for risk assessment.

- Technical assistance services
 - study for national customs authorities of the time required for release of goods and analysis and recommendations for efficient, effective operation of the country's customs clearance procedures (5 days, English and French);
 - assistance with simplification and modernization of customs procedures and accession to the Kyoto Convention and other international arrangements (1-2 weeks, English and French);
 - assistance for combating transshipment fraud (5 days, English and French); and
 - training of trainers in member countries in communications skills and use of interactive and progressive training methods (10 days, English).
- Fellowship programs, including fellowships at WCO/Brussels for customs middle managers to develop skills in customs administration and related human resources management with studies in specialized fields selected by Fellow and field trips to various countries' customs offices (20 days in Brussels, 10 days with a sponsoring national customs administration).
- WCO Website, posting of commodity classification decisions taken by the WCO Harmonized System Committee publishing a complete description of goods, six digit HS classification, and the legal basis for the decision. Also included with amendments to Explanatory Notes and Classification opinions, lists of HS Convention Contracting Parties, agenda, working documents and reports of the Committee, plus a request form for classification advice from WCO.

More details on the WCO and its technical assistance programs are in Part III of this guide
For additional information on WCO assistance, contact:

MR. JÁNOS NAGY
HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
B-1210 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
TEL: 32-2-209-9445
FAX: 32-2-209-9496
EMAIL: JANOS.NAGY@WCOOMD.ORG

WCO Web Site: <http://www.wcoomd.org>

World Trade Organization – WTO

The World Trade Organization (WTO) exercises flexibility to best tailor its technical assistance to the needs and priorities of individual countries, taking into account their level of development, with particular concern for human resource development and institutional strengthening. The WTO provides certain regional, sub-regional, and national seminars, workshops, and briefing missions on the nature, requirements, and implementation of the Uruguay Round Customs Valuation Agreement. It also often defers to the specialized expertise of the World Customs Organization and frequently includes representatives of this organization as experts for events intended to explain the reasons for, nature of problems addressed, and requirements of the Uruguay Round Customs Valuation Agreement.

More details on the WTO and its programs of technical assistance are in Part III of this guide
For information on WTO technical assistance for Customs and the Uruguay Round Customs
Valuation Agreement, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5611
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

For information on the Uruguay Round Customs Valuation Agreement, contact:

MARKET ACCESS DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
TEL: 41-22-739-5020

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES/UNDERSTANDING UNDER THE WTO

The dispute settlement system of the WTO is a central element in providing security and predictability to the multilateral trading system resulting from the Uruguay Round (Article 3.2 DSU). Its aim is to secure a positive solution to a dispute. The purpose of the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (the "DSU") is to provide for an efficient, dependable and rule-oriented system to resolve, within a multilateral framework, disputes arising in relation to the application of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization,

The WTO dispute settlement mechanism provides for three main ways of resolving disputes: (1) bilateral consultations, (2) good offices, conciliation and mediation; and (3) adjudication, including arbitration. With the exception of arbitration, adjudication cannot be requested until consultations have taken place or unsuccessful attempts to consult have been made. The DSU contains rules and procedures to be followed by WTO members for both consultations and adjudication.

Adjudication under the DSU can be by a panel (Articles 6 to 16 DSU) or an arbitrator (Article 25 DSU). Panel reports may be subject to an appeal to the Appellate Body (Article 17 DSU). Panel and Appellate Body reports may suggest ways in which the member concerned could implement the recommendations (Article 19 DSU).

World Trade Organization – WTO

Responding to the requirements of the DSU, the WTO provides a number of technical assistance tools for developing countries focused on dispute resolution. These include:

- Lectures on the DSU process, procedures, and requirements.
- Training courses (Geneva-based and regional) providing instruction on the rules, procedures, and practices under the DSU and simulation exercises to facilitate practical understanding of how trade issues are developed, cases prepared and presented, and disputes resolved
- Technical legal assistance to concerned countries on issues related to the operation and procedures of the DSU process.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III.

For more information on WTO Dispute Resolution assistance, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

For an update on the status of WTO disputes see: <http://www.wto.org/wto/dispute/distab.htm>

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

The UNCTAD has sponsored a weeklong training course in Geneva for developing country trade officials on “International Economic Law, Dispute Settlement, and International Organizations” that addresses, *inter alia*:

- WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding
- WTO Appellate Review System, and
- Dispute resolution aspects of the Uruguay Round TRIMS and TRIPS Agreements.

More details on the UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on UNCTAD’s assistance for dispute Settlement, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD Technical Cooperation Web Site: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

“Electronic Commerce” (or “E-Commerce”) refers to marketing/sales/purchase/delivery transactions that take place between parties via the Internet and other telecommunications medium. It is a very recent but rapidly growing form of international trade, with the potential to reach over one trillion dollars in annually in the next several years. In May, 1998, a Declaration was adopted by trade ministers at the Second (Geneva) WTO Ministerial Conference that called upon the WTO General Council to establish a “comprehensive work programme to examine all trade-related issues relating to global electronic commerce . . .” and stated that “Members will continue their current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions.”

How the WTO should respond to the challenge of E-Commerce and whether the moratorium on impositions thereon of customs duties should be extended beyond the WTO Seattle Ministerial Conference in December 1999 are major agenda issues in the preparation for that Conference. The issues are twofold.

First, is whether the moratorium on imposition of customs duties should be extended after the Seattle Ministerial, either indefinitely or for a specified period. There is an emerging consensus that it should be extended at least until the next ministerial meeting in 2001. Second is whether the marketing/sales/purchase/supply of products and services falls under exiting WTO rules and commitments. If not, loopholes for trade obligations may emerge, and new negotiations on electronic commerce must start from the ground up. Related is which WTO rules apply. Clearly most electronic commerce now falls into the services sector. There is a broad and growing range of products, however, based on digitized information (software, music, books, etc) that has goods counterparts, but which can now be delivered electronically. How the more robust goods rules apply to these products must be clarified.

While treatment of E-Commerce under the GATT/WTO framework is new and there are many unsettled issue, there is an important role for technical assistance programs to fulfill in educating and training countries on how to implement electronic commerce strategies and why they will benefit from liberalized global markets. Developing countries’ ability to participate meaningfully in future WTO discussions on these issues depends on seeing how electronic commerce is relevant for their own economies, and how a liberalized market helps stimulate growth in this innovative area.

U.S. Agency for International Development – USAID

Under the Leland Initiative, USAID is conducting a five year US\$ 15 million effort to extend full Internet connectivity to approximately 20 African countries in order to promote sustainable development. In connection with the ATRIP program, USAID and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission intend to offer similar assistance to African countries seeking to promote competition and lower costs of other telecommunication services.

ENVIRONMENT (TRADE AND) / SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At the Marrakesh conclusion of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, trade ministers authorized establishment of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment. Some technical assistance programs profiled in this guide address the issues raised by the relationship between trade and the environment. These include the WTO, UNCTAD, the International Organization for Standardization, and the JITAP.

World Trade Organization – WTO

The WTO's Division on Trade and Environment oversees issues on the relationship between the two as well as technical barriers to trade, standards, and export of domestically prohibited goods. It has included discussion of the Trade/Environment relationship in its overall seminars on the GATT/WTO framework in some of its regional seminars for Africa.

More details on WTO technical assistance programs and activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on WTO technical assistance related to Trade and the Environment, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEANMAURICELEGER@WTO.ORG

For detailed information on Trade and the Environment, contact:

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 TEL: 41-22-739-5148
 FAX: 42-22-739-5620

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

UN Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

The UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade recognizes that the relationship between Trade and the Environment is one of the challenges for developing nations posed by globalization and their need to integrate into the multilateral trading system. Its two Positive Agenda workshops in Africa in 1999 include discussion of the relationship and its impacts for export-led economic development.

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on UNCTAD's activities relating to Trade and the Environment, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade Web Site: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has addressed the effects of assuring health, safety, and environmental protection in the formulation and enforcement of international and national standards and their impacts on international trade. It has sponsored programs addressing Environmental Management and of ISO 14,000 environmental standards in its general regional seminars on standardization and the standardizing process.

More details of the ISO and its standardization and technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the ISO's environmental standards capacity-building assistance activities, contact:

ANWAR EL-TAWIL, DIRECTOR
PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
1, RUE DE VAREMBE
CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-749-0111
FAX: 41-22-749-0151
EMAIL: ELTAWIL@ISO.CH

ISO Web Site: <http://www.iso.ch>

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)

The International Trade Centre (ITC), which provides technical assistance primarily to non-governmental enterprises to develop their export capacity and competitiveness, has produced and makes available a manual entitled "Implications of the WTO Agreements for International Trade in Environmental Industries" that includes discussion of the relationship between international trade and the environment.

More detailed information on the ITC's technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on ITC technical assistance involving environmental concerns and to obtain a copy of its manual, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0276
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP), a joint program of the WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC, that provides assistance to African countries to enable them better to participate in the multilateral trading system, has also included discussion of issues of trade and environment in their regional/sub-regional seminars on aspects of the GATT/WTO framework and in their Geneva-based workshops for trade delegates of African countries.

More detailed information on JITAP technical assistance are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on JITAP technical assistance, contact:

At UNCTAD:

MARCEL NAMFUA
SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISOR/
COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)—originally negotiated during the Tokyo Round of GATT-sponsored multilateral trade negotiations (1973-79) and renegotiated during the Uruguay Round (1986-94)—opens public purchasing to international competition by applying the WTO principles of National Treatment (non-discrimination between foreign and domestic suppliers) and Most Favored Nation (MFN) treatment (non-discrimination between different foreign suppliers) to tendering procedures for contracts covered by the Agreement. The Agreement requires transparency, accountability and due process in those procurement procedures.

Unlike most of the Uruguay Round agreements, the GPA is a “plurilateral” agreement, i.e., it is only binding on the Members of the WTO that have specifically ratified it. As of mid-1999, only 26 Member nations of the WTO are signatories to the Agreement. Another 15 WTO Members, 14 of which are developing or transition economy countries, have obtained “observer status” in the WTO Government Procurement Committee. Four of the observer members (Chinese Taipei, Iceland, Latvia, and Panama) are in the process of negotiating their accession to the GPA. To date, none of the countries in Africa have jointed the Agreement.

At the First WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore in December 1996, WTO Trade Ministers agreed to establish a “working group to conduct a study on transparency in government procurement practices, taking into account national policies, and, based on this study, to develop elements for inclusion in an appropriate agreement.” On the basis of the progress that the Working Group has made in fulfilling this mandate, a wide range of WTO Members have endorsed efforts to conclude a WTO Agreement on Transparency in Government Procurement at the Seattle Ministerial Conference. Such an Agreement would apply to all WTO Members, and would be completely separate from the existing GPA. In particular, it would not require that WTO Members’ remove domestic purchasing preferences or other restrictions on foreign competition in their procurement markets, so long as such measures are applied in a transparent and predictable manner.

Ensuring transparency, due process, fairness and accountability in government procurement has increasingly become a focus for technical assistance provided by for a range of some technical cooperation agencies, including major bilateral assistance agencies, the World Bank Group, the regional development banks, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO and the UNCTAD itself.

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

The International Trade Centre (ITC) serves primarily the enterprise sector and seeks to foster export expansion through improved government procurement practices. Its Program of Technical Assistance on Public Sector Procurement assists developing countries in upgrading national and international public sector procurement systems and practices, including legal, regulatory, and administrative aspects, in order to enhance the transparency and cost-effectiveness thereof, and to assist them in understanding the potential benefits of acceding to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement.

More detailed information on the International Trade Centre and its technical assistance programs may be found in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the ITC's technical assistance relating to Government Procurement, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0276
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

The Web Site for the International Trade Centre is: <http://www.intracen.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade provides for some technical assistance relating to government procurement. In the two Positive Agenda regional workshops held in Africa in 1999, presentations included one on "Trade and Government Procurement."

More detailed information on UNCTAD's technical assistance activities may be found in Part III of this guide.

For further information regard UNCTAD technical assistance relating to government procurement, contact:

MR. MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade Web Site: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

World Trade Organization – WTO

In addition to its Working Group on Government Procurement, the WTO maintains professional staff in its Intellectual Property and Investment Division who deal with government procurement issues. They can be contacted at Tel: 41-22-739-5136.

INFORMATION/DOCUMENT DISSEMINATION

Documentary material is an important aspect of WTO-related technical assistance. Whether hardcopy or software, whether for training or for general information or specialized research, most programs profiled in this guide produce such materials. The following listing of important documentary information is not exhaustive.

World Trade Organization – WTO

The World Trade Organization (WTO), which operates as the administrator of the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade, is the primary source for GATT/WTO-related documentary information. Its information resources include:

- WTO Manual on Technical Cooperation and Training which summarizes the process for obtaining WTO technical assistance. It is available in hardcopy and in electronic form through the WTO's Internet Web Site, namely: <http://www.wto.org/tct/ctd14.htm>
- WTO's Guidelines for WTO Technical Cooperation adopted by Committee on Trade and Development on 15 October 1996, available in Part V.
- Computer-based interactive tool that facilitates information dissemination on the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules, namely:
<http://www.wto.org/wto/download/download.htm>
- WTO training materials and other information resources are accessible on the Internet at the WTO's Web Site: <http://www.wto.org> and in CD-ROMs and diskettes, as well as in hardcopy (printed) editions.
- WTO interactive guides in electronic and print versions, including: Guide to the WTO, Guide to the WTO and Developing Countries, Guide to Reading WTO Schedules (bound tariff and non-tariff commitments), Guide to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, Business Guide to the Uruguay Round.
- Directory of Internet Trade and Development Links, a compilation of Internet sites offering information and data on trade and development organized by region, country, and subject.
- WTO case studies, based on the experiences of specific developing countries and/or companies in working with WTO rules and mechanisms.

The WTO also publishes a newsletter—WTO Focus—that reports activities of the various WTO departments. The newsletter is available from the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Tel: 41-22-739-5007, Fax: 41-22-739-5458.

More details on WTO technical assistance programs are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on WTO technical assistance and documentary information resources, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO - ITC

Founded and managed jointly by the WTO and UNCTAD, the ITC concentrates on assistance to enterprises rather than government agencies, but produces a significant number of documentary materials on various aspects of the WTO and the Uruguay Round agreements that can benefit either. Its documentary background materials include:

- CD-ROM: Trade Information Tool Kit
- Business Guide to the Uruguay Round
- Manager's Guide to the World Trading System
- TradeMaps – Opportunities and Challenges of the New Multilateral Trading System
- Anti-Dumping Proceedings: Guidelines for Importers and Exporters
- Agreements on the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) related agreements.
- Successful Services Exporting – A Handbook
- The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: An Overview.
- The Changing Pattern of International Trade in Textiles and Clothing – Implications of the Introduction of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on Developing Countries' Producing/ Exporting Textiles and Clothing.
- Agreement on Agriculture.
- Joint Ventures and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- Trade in Information Technology Products and the WTO Agreements, and Implications of the WTO Agreements for International Trade in Environmental Industries.
- World Directory of Trade Promotion Organizations and Other Foreign Trade Bodies.

The ITC also publishes the *International Trade Forum*, a quarterly in English, French, and Spanish that focuses on trade promotion, export development, and import methods and often features articles on GATT/WTO agreements. Subscriptions and individual copies are free to trade-related institutions and firms in developing countries and are US\$ 20 a year for other subscribers. Each edition contains a listing of the ITC's 100 publications. The list with prices is also available at the ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org> (click on "Products").

More details on the ITC and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the ITC's available documentary information resources, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
 TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
 DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0276
 FAX: 41-22-733-4439
 EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

The UNCTAD produces a number of documentary informational publications related to various aspects of economic development in developing and least-developed countries that contain useful information on the multilateral trading system and the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules. These include important *annual* publications on:

- Trade and Development Report which analyzes current global economic performance, regional trends, and the interaction of trade, investment and financial flows and discusses development strategies and current policy issues of interest to developing countries.
- World Investment Report which analyzes trends in foreign direct investment worldwide and at regional and country levels and serves as a background document for discussions of the relationship of FDI to trade and development.
- Least Developed Countries Report, which identifies major challenges facing LDCs and monitors international support measures. It is a comprehensive source of socioeconomic analysis and data on the 48 LDCs.
- Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics which provides a comprehensive collection of statistics relevant to the analysis of world trade and development, covering basic indicators of development, such as *per capita* GDP and growth rates, as well as external financial indicators, such as balance of payments, foreign direct investment, financial resource flows, and debt.
- Guide to UNCTAD Publications, which lists other periodic and occasional studies, analyses, and working papers.

More details on the UNCTAD's trade-related technical assistance programs are in Part III of this guide.

For more information about UNCTAD's available documentary information resources, contact:

EXTERNAL RELATIONS SERVICE
 UNCTAD
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-907-1234
 FAX: 41-22-907-0043
 EMAIL: ERS@UNCTAD.ORG

Information on publications is at UNCTAD's Web Site:
<http://www.unctad.org/en/pub/pu98guen.htm>

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO

The FAO is a forum for discussion and technical cooperation with regard to, international trade in agricultural commodities and food security, and is an important source of documentary information on the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture and related agreements (SPS, TBT, TRIPS). FAO is also a major source of documents on preparations for new multilateral negotiations on trade in agriculture. These include:

- **Information on Electronic Access** to necessary sources of information covering interpretation, impact analyses, transition measures, Uruguay Round implementation issues, and negotiating proposals in future multilateral trade negotiations. This information is primarily centered and accessible in the FAO's special Uruguay Round Web Site, e.g., <http://www.fao.org/ur/urufao.stm> which contains electronic information on:
 - Uruguay Round Agreements and the FAO: What the Uruguay Round Achieved for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries;
 - FAO and the WTO;
 - curriculum of the Umbrella Programme for Training on Uruguay Round Follow Up and Future Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture;
 - papers submitted to the FAO's recent conference on "International Prospects for Dairying in the Next WTO Negotiating Round;
 - texts of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights;
 - FAO GATT/WTO-related technical assistance programs and FAO Contacts; and
 - glossary of Agricultural/FAO/GATT/WTO terminology.
- **Training kits** with curricula and relevant information relating to: the Uruguay Round Agricultural Agreement, SPS and TBT Agreements and their relationship to implementation of the Agricultural Agreement and other Agricultural issues, and TRIPS Agreement and its relationship to Agricultural issues.
- **Global/regional outlook studies** on commodity trends.
- **Global animal disease statistics**
- **FAO studies related to the impact of the Uruguay Round**, in print form, including:
 - Impact of the Uruguay Round on Agriculture (1995);
 - An Overview of Assessments of the Impact of the Uruguay Round on Agricultural Prices and Incomes (1996);
 - The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture: Food Security Implications for Developing Countries (1996);
 - Uruguay Round Commitments on Domestic Support: Their Implications for Developing Countries (1996);
 - Potential Erosion of Trade Preferences in Agricultural Products (1996);
 - Impact of the Uruguay Round on International Trade in Forest Products (1996);
 - The Impact of the Uruguay Round on Tariff Escalation in Agricultural Products (1997);
 - Implications of the Uruguay Round for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (1997).

At the September 1999 FAO Symposium on "Agriculture, Trade and Food Security: Issues and Options in the Forthcoming WTO Negotiations from the Perspective of Developing Countries," a number of papers were delivered that are available from the FAO's Commodity Policy and Projections Service/Commodities and Trade Division, including:

- Salient Trends in World Agricultural Production, Demand, Trade and Food Security (Doc. No. X2996/E).
- Developments in Global Agricultural Markets, 1995-1998 (X2997/E).
- Experience with Implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture – developing country experience: Synthesis of Country Case Studies (X3065/E).
- Issues at Stake Relating to Agricultural Development, Trade and Food Security (no number).
- Food Security and the Forthcoming Trade Negotiations: Key Issues Raised by the World Food Summit (X2999/E).
- Measures to Enhance Agricultural Development, Trade and Food Security in the Context of the Forthcoming WTO Negotiations (no number).

FAO's Web Site has a catalog of studies: <http://www.fao.org/CATALOG/interact/fgen-e.htm>
More details on the FAO and its technical assistance program are in Part III.

For more information on FAO technical assistance on international trade in Agriculture and the WTO/Uruguay Round agreements, contact:

JAMES GREENFIELD, DIRECTOR
COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION
UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)
VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA
00 100 ROME, ITALY
TEL: 39-06-570-53856
FAX: 39-06-570-54495
EMAIL: JAMES.GREENFIELD@FAO.ORG

FAO's general Web Site: <http://www.fao.org>

World Customs Organization (WCO)

As the primary international organization addressing matters of customs administration (classification, valuation, liquidation, entry), the WCO publishes a number of valuable documentary information materials. These include:

- Guide to WCO Training and Technical Assistance Activities (This document is obtainable in electronic form from the WCO Web Site: <http://www.wcoomd.org/frmpublic.htm>, click on "Human Resources Development Service").
- The International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, which introduces the Harmonized System, provides a detailed description and arrangements for its management, and describes complementary publications.
- Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System – the full legal text of the HS system.

- CD-ROM version of the foregoing two documents.
- Explanatory Notes to the Harmonized System—follows the systematic order of the HS and explains the General Interpretative Rules, Section Notes, Chapter Notes and Sub-Heading Notes as well as the scope of headings and subheadings and technical descriptions of the goods concerned with practical guidance for their classification and identification.
- Compendium of Classification Opinions Adopted by the World Customs Organization.
- Amendments to the Harmonized System Nomenclature.
- Alphabetical Index to the Harmonized System
- Brief Guide to the Customs Valuation Agreement.
- A Single International Valuation System
- Comparison: Brussels Definition of Value and GATT Agreement.
- Customs Technique – contains recommendations and resolutions and their rules of application, International Customs Norms, the Glossary of International Customs Terms, Guidelines, and Model Legislation.
- Glossary of International Customs Terms.
- Kyoto Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures : A Handbook.
- Introducing the Kyoto Convention.
- Survey of Customs Reform and Modernization Trends and Best Practices (this document is obtainable in electronic form from the WCO Web Site at:
http://www.wcoomd.org/surve_e.htm).

In addition, the WCO publishes WCO News, which can be obtained biannually from:

WCO NEWS
 WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
 RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 26-38
 B-1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
 EMAIL: DAVID.BLAKEMORE@WCOOMD.ORG

More details on the WCO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.
 For more information on the WCO's technical assistance programs, contact:

MR. JÁNOS NAGY
 HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
 WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
 B-1210 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
 TEL: 32-2-209-9445
 FAX: 32-2-209-9496
 EMAIL: JANOS.NAGY@WCOOMD.ORG

WCO Web Site: <http://www.wcoomd.org>

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

A non-governmental organization, the ISO's members are national standards bodies from some 130 countries. The ISO promotes and facilitates the development of national and international standards and related activities to facilitate the international exchange of goods and support cooperation in standardization, conformity assessment, and certification. The ISO assists developing countries, *inter*

alia, by publishing and distributing development manuals on standards-related topics. Its many documentary materials include:

- ISO Online – information about the ISO and its activities, which is found at:
<http://www.iso.ch/infoe/intro.htm>
- ISO Programme for Developing Countries: 1998-2000—ISO’s Committee on Developing Countries (DEVCO) and its technical assistance program—describes DEVCO’s program elements, administration and financing of the program, training seminars, fellowships, and modalities for implementation.

All the *following* documents are available in print editions and in electronic format from ISO’s Web Site: <http://www.iso.ch/infoe/otherpub.html>.

- ISO’s Long-Range Strategies 1999-2001: Raising Standards for the World.
- ISO Catalogue – a list of all published ISO standards, updated quarterly by cumulative supplements.
- ISO Technical Programme – information on the titles and stages of all *draft* standards.
- ISO/IEC Directives: Part 1 – Procedures for Technical Work, Part 2 – Methodology for the Development of International Standards, and Part 3 – Rules for the Structure and Drafting of International Standards.
- WTO TBT Standards Code Directory – gives information on standardizing bodies that have accepted the WTO TBT Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption, and application of standards.
- ISO “ISONET” Documents – ISONET is a worldwide network of national standards information centers that have cooperatively developed a system to provide rapid access to information about standards, technical regulations, and testing/certification activities currently used around the world. (Reference ISONET Directory, and ISONET Manual).
- DEVCO: the ISO Committee for Developing Country Matters.
- ISO Development Manuals series, intended specifically for developing countries:
 - No. 1 – Establishment and Management of a National Standards Body;
 - No. 2 – Conformity Assessment;
 - No. 3 – Training Technical Staff – National Level and Company Level;
 - No. 4 – Teaching of Standardization in Institutions of Higher Learning in Developing Countries;
 - No. 5 – Development and Organization of a Company Standards Department;
 - No. 6 – Application of Standards;
 - No. 7 – Participation in International Standardization;
 - No. 8 – Organization and Development of a National Standards Information Centre;
 - No. 9 – Establishment of a Testing Laboratory for a National Standards Body; and
 - No.10 – Environmental Management and ISO 14000.
- The Role of Standardization in Economic Development.
- Launching a Standards Initiative – Guidelines for Developing Countries.
- ISO/IEC Compendium, Conformity Assessment: Guides and Standards.
- Certification and Related Activities: Assessment and Verification of Conformity to Standards and Technical Specifications.

More details on ISO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the ISO's standards technical assistance activities, contact:

ANWAR EL-TAWIL, DIRECTOR
 PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
 1 RUE DE VAREMBE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-749-0111
 FAX: 41-22-749-0151
 EMAIL: ELTAWIL@ISO.CH

ISO Web Site: <http://www.iso.ch>

World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO

The WIPO promotes the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) worldwide and administers the principal IPR conventions and registration of IPR thereunder. Its technical assistance activities involve cooperation with developing countries and its WIPO Worldwide Academy. Incident to these activities, WIPO publishes and distributes informational resources, including:

- The WIPO Worldwide Academy – a description of the Academy's objectives, strategy, and activities. (This document is obtainable in electronic form from WIPO's Web Site at: <http://www.wipo.int/eng/academy/intro.htm>)
- Legal and Technical Assistance to Developing Countries for Implementation of the TRIPS Agreement from January 1, 1996 to March 31, 1999.
- Draft Program and Budget: 2000-2001 – Describes WIPO's Main Program 06 – Cooperation with Developing Countries; and Main Program 08 – WIPO Worldwide Academy and Human Resources Development.
- Legal Texts of Laws, Regulations, Legislation Notified to WIPO By Member countries.

More details on WIPO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on WIPO's technical assistance, contact:

GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, DIRECTOR
 COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/AFRICA BUREAU
 WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
 34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-338-9111
 FAX: 41-22-338-8840
 EMAIL: GEOFFREY.O NYEAMA@WIPO.INT

WIPO Web Site: <http://www.wipo.int>

World Bank

The World Bank assists developing countries in formulating liberal trade policies and provides technical assistance or policy advice to governments oriented to an open trade regime. The Bank undertakes research to better understand the role of international trade in development and poverty reduction and contributes to the development of techniques and policy tools for analyzing the impact

of trade policy reforms. The Bank publishes a vast array of economic development and financial materials. Here are listed only its trade and GATT/WTO-related documents.

- **New Trade Agenda Trade Materials.** The Bank has created an "International Trade and Development" web site that serves as a research, training and outreach tool for people interested in trade policy and developing countries. Basic topic areas include:
 - General Trade Policy;
 - "Second Generation Issues," which includes Standards, Liberalization of Trade in Services/GATS, Government Procurement/WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), Intellectual Property Rights/TRIPS, Competition Policy, Trade and Investment/TRIMS. (<http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/SECONDGEN.html>);
 - WTO and Developing Countries: Rules and Experiences (See World Bank Web Site: <http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/SECONDGEN.html>);
 - Regional Integration;
 - Export Competitiveness;
 - Integrated Framework for Trade Development;
 (All of these topics may be viewed at <http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/default.html>)
- **WTO Capacity Building Project** – designed to provide developing countries with a comprehensive overview of key issues likely to arise in the next MTN round so they can more effectively participate therein.
- **Handbook for Trade Negotiators**
- **Research Papers** (All of these studies may be downloaded in Acrobat Version at the World Bank's WTO 2000 Web Site: http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/wto2000_BPs.html)
 - Two Principles for the Next Round: How to Bring Developing Countries in From the Cold
 - Agriculture and the WTO 2000 Negotiations;
 - The Developing Countries and the Next Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations;
 - Agriculture, WTO, and the Next Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations;
 - Competition Policy, Developing Countries and the WTO;
 - Present Outlook for Trade Negotiations in the WTO;
 - Remedies in the WTO Dispute Settlement System;
 - Developing Countries Trade Facilitation;
 - Government Procurement: How Does Discrimination Matter?
 - Multilateral Disciplines for Investment-Related Policies;
 - Multilateral Rules on Foreign Direct Investment: The Developing Countries' Stake;
 - Intellectual Property Rights and Economic Development;
 - The WTO Agreement and Telecommunications Policy Reform;
 - Maximizing the Benefits of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism;
 - MFN and the GATS Is there a Better Way? Alternative Approaches to Liberalization under the GATS;
 - Developing Country Interests in Liberalizing Manufactures Trade;
 - Participation of the Developing Countries in the WTO;
 - Measurement, Classification, and Reporting of Services Activities: An International Perspective;
 - Agriculture and the WTO: Next Steps;
 - Developing Countries Goals and Strategies for the Millennium Round;
 - The Millennium Round and Developing Countries;

- Negotiating Strategies and Areas of Benefits;
- Trade Policy and Market Access Issues for Developing Countries; and
- Core Labor Standards and Competitiveness: Implications for Global Trade Policy.
- **World Bank Agriculture Project**, featuring a Handbook on Agricultural Trade Issues

More detailed information on the World Bank's technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on the World Bank's general technical assistance activities, contact:

PHILIP ENGLISH
WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
1818 "H" STREET, N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20433
TEL: 202-473-6483
FAX: 202-676-9810
EMAIL: PENGLISH@WORLDBANK.ORG

INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT TO TRADE/WTO-RELATED ACTIVITIES

“Infrastructural support” refers to institutional capacity-building through the provision of machinery and equipment, computers and related hardware/software — all of which enable governmental or private sector agencies to more efficiently and effectively undertake international trade policy information gathering, analysis, and formulation. Many of the technical assistance agencies profiled in this guide make such infrastructural support available to developing nations.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) makes available information technology to support its training and seminar/workshop activities. This includes:

- A computer-based **interactive tool** (CD-ROM) developed to facilitate dissemination of information on the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade. The CD-ROM facilitates the establishment and operations of the WTO Trade Reference Centers in many developing countries.
- **Interactive Guides** that provide information on the GATT’94 and WTO’s Uruguay Round agreements and other instruments that make up the framework of global trade rules.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on WTO infrastructural support, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION – WTO
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5611
 FAX: 41-22-739-5776
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

UNCTAD provides certain infrastructural support to developing countries in connection with its Positive Agenda for Trade, which focuses its technical assistance on capacity building, *inter alia*, for the identification and analysis of international trade-related issues and trade policy formation and negotiation. Such infrastructural support includes:

- ASYCUDA, its Automated System for Customs Data through which customs and other trade-related agencies can improve the reliability of information on current incoming shipments and collect better trade data for trade policy analysis purposes.
- TRAINS – e.g., Trade Analysis and Information System, another computerized information technology designed to generate inputs for trade policy information gathering and analysis/formation.

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this Guide.

For more information on UNCTAD's infrastructural support assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
 TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
 DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND COMMODITIES
 UNCTAD
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-907-5920
 FAX: 41-22-907-0044
 EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD Web Sites:

For the Positive Agenda for Trade: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

For other technical cooperation programs: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) is a joint program of the UNCTAD, WTO, and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO. It is intended to help African countries participate effectively in the multilateral trading system and to improve their institutional mechanisms for carrying out WTO obligations. To this end, the JITAP provides certain facilities and tools to help developing countries:

- WTO National Reference Centers to link trade development networks (public officials, businesspersons, academics).
- Global Case Network system software to share best practices among national trade-related agencies.
- Global Electronic Discussion Forum system to allow trade officials of developing countries to address trade-related issues for problem solving purposes.

More details on JITAP technical assistance are in Part III of this Guide.

For additional information on JITAP infrastructural support, contact:

MARCEL NAMFUA
 SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISOR/COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
 UNCTAD
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-907-5920
 FAX: 41-22-907-0044
 EMAIL: MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

World Bank

In connection with its World Bank Agriculture Project, focused on future agricultural trade negotiations, the World Bank makes available to developing countries a set of agricultural-related databases and the software tools to assess policy proposals.

More detailed information on the World Bank's technical assistance are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the World Bank's infrastructural assistance under its Agriculture Project, contact:

MERLINDA INGCO
WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
1818 "H" STREET, N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20433
TEL: 202-473-3860
FAX: 202-522-1674
EMAIL: MINGCO@WORLDBANK.ORG

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/WTO TRIPS AGREEMENT

Intellectual Property (IP) is divided into two main categories: (1) industrial property, which includes patents and other rights involving technological inventions such as trademarks and industrial designs; and (2) copyright, which includes literary, musical, and artistic works. Until conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the GATT did not regulate international trade aspects of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement. The Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) provided for minimum standards of protection for intellectual property as well as provisions for the enforcement of such rights between member countries of the WTO via the Dispute Settlement Understanding. Developed countries have had to comply with all of the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement since January 1, 1996, while for developing nations the transition period has been the five years ending January 1, 2000. For Least Developed Countries, the transition period extends eleven years until January 1, 2006.

World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), based in Geneva, promotes the protection of intellectual property worldwide. WIPO administers the principal IP-related international treaties, including the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and administers the registration of industrial property rights thereunder. It undertakes the preparation and adaptation of treaties to accord with changes in international industrial, trade, and cultural developments and provides for arbitration and mediation of IP-related disputes between private parties.

WIPO's technical assistance activities are focused principally upon developing and least-developed countries through its Technical Cooperation for Development Program, divided in turn into two "Main Programs."

Main Program 06 is entitled Cooperation with Developing Countries, and includes three sub-programs:

- **Sub-Program 06.1:** Modernization of the Intellectual Property System and Implementation of the Uruguay Round TRIPS Agreement. This is designed first to strengthen national capacities for compliance with the TRIPS Agreement:
 - drafting of legislation prepared by WIPO upon request from developing countries (21 countries);
 - WIPO commentary on the compatibility of existing laws/regulations or draft legislation with the TRIPS Agreement or other international IP standards (for 48 countries); and
 - Expert missions to provide legal/technical assistance to improve IP-related administrative structure (137 missions).

This sub-program is also intended to improve the collection and dissemination of information on IP-related laws/regulations and legislation, specifically:

- legal texts (laws, regulations, legislation notified to WIPO) published on its intranet site (over 1,000); and responses to requests for IP-related information (480).

- **Sub-Program 06.2:** Development and Promotion of Industrial and Social Uses of IP, including wider dissemination and use of IP information by traditional users and target groups. This activity features
 - awareness and special information meetings (54 national, sub-regional, and regional);
 - state-of-the-art [Patent] searches (726 for developing countries and/or institutions).
- **Sub-Program 06.3:** Strengthening Cooperation Among Member States with Other Organizations notably to foster coordination of international cooperation for development for IP through:
 - regional and sub-regional fora (17)
 - advisory Missions to provide support to sub-regional organizations for common administration of IP laws/regulations (35).

Main Program 08 focuses on human resources development and the WIPO worldwide academy, and involves four sub-programs:

- **Sub-Program 08.1:** Information Technology-based Training, Teaching, and Advisory Services, which includes two components. First, this sub-program features promotion of institutional networking and distance learning programs and support to regional capacity-building for training and public awareness, through:
 - collaboration with academic institutions and governmental IP Agencies for adaptation of existing course materials into distance learning modules
 - establishment of a studio equipped for distance learning (e.g., video-conferencing, virtual classes, electronic conferences, on-line teaching services);
 - distance learning courses on patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright, and international registration systems.
 Second, the sub-program also focuses on production of new curricula, courses, and teaching materials, including advice for curricula development, lists of reference sources and development of university/experts networks for development of region-specific training courses and materials.
- **Sub-Program 08.2:** Inter-Regional Training Courses, Fellowships and Internships, including cooperation on the coordination and planning of training through inter-regional courses and seminars (60), and study visits (161 participants). Additionally, this sub-program also sponsors fellowships (22) in cooperation with national institutions, and internships for six-week training at WIPO/Geneva (13).
- **Sub-Program 08.3:** Fora on Intellectual Property for Policy Advisers to enhance national capacity to analyze and implement new policy directions for IP and economic development and related policies. Such fora include both general WIPO Academy sessions in Geneva (three with 43 participants from at least 28 countries), plus special sessions on TRIPS implementation (two with 25 participants from 12 countries) and on enforcement of IP rights (16 participants from 14 countries).
- **Sub-Program 08.4:** general Orientation and Learning Conferences to enhance national capacity in use of IP systems for promotion of innovative knowledge-based enterprises and improved competitiveness in domestic and international markets. These conferences include international and regional symposia/seminars (5 events/230 participants) and plus studies on establishment of innovation Centers in Developing Countries (2).

Most WIPO technical assistance is managed and delivered through its Cooperation for Development Sector and its four regional bureaus (including its Africa Bureau). In 1998, a special unit was established within the Cooperation for Development Sector to respond to the specific needs of the least-developed countries for each of the sub-programs of Main Program 06. Most technical assistance is delivered through bilaterally agreed national action plans. In 1998, 68 nationally focused action plans were concluded by WIPO, with the bulk of such assistance focused on helping developing countries prepare for implementation of the TRIPS Agreement by 01 January 2000. In 1998, a total of 119 WIPO-designed and organized events took place in the four developing regions, of which 59 were at the national level and 60 at the regional or sub-regional level. Within Main Program 08, a total of 60 interregional courses and seminars and 161 study visits were conducted along with five WIPO Worldwide Academy sessions. Overall, WIPO's technical cooperation activities benefited nearly 11,000 persons in 122 developing countries.

WIPO's extensive Technical Cooperation for Development programs are described at length in its Annual Report for 1998, and its Draft Program and Budget for 2000-2001, which can be downloaded from WIPO's web site at <http://www.wipo.org/eng/main.htm> (click on "Publications").

Joint WIPO-WTO assistance for TRIPS and IPR protection and enforcement. WIPO and the WTO entered into an agreement on 1 January 1996, for cooperation on legal-technical assistance and technical cooperation for the benefit of developing countries with regard to implementation of the Uruguay Round TRIPS Agreement. Under that agreement, the two agencies have undertaken joint operations such as joint symposia and workshops as well as providing WIPO experts to workshops and training courses organized by WTO and *vice versa*. They have sponsored at least one joint symposium each year. In addition, WIPO and the WTO launched a joint initiative in July 1998 to assist WTO Member developing countries to meet the January 1, 2000 deadline for compliance with the requirements of the TRIPS Agreement. A number of joint WIPO/WTO missions were undertaken in 1999 to assess TRIPS-related needs of requesting countries and several national seminars scheduled for the latter part of 1999.

WIPO Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on WIPO technical assistance activities, contact:

MR. GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, DIRECTOR
 COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/AFRICA BUREAU
 WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
 34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES
 1211 GENEVA 20
 SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-338-9111
 FAX: 41-22-338-8840
 EMAIL: GEOFFREY.O NYEAMA@WIPO.INT

WIPO Web Site: <http://www.wipo.int>

World Trade Organization - WTO

The Uruguay Round included the most detailed and comprehensive agreement on intellectual property yet negotiated: the Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Moreover, the TRIPS Agreement incorporated obligations of nations under another IPR-related convention administered by WIPO, e.g., the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Convention). The World Trade Organization thus became an administering body for trade-related obligations relating to the protection and enforcement of IPR. Disputes about the TRIPS Agreement are resolved through the WTO Dispute Settlement Process.

As a result, the WTO has become significantly involved with IPR. Given its responsibilities for administration and enforcement of TRIPS, it has developed technical assistance programs for assisting developing countries in understanding and complying with their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement. This technical assistance is one of WTO's 10 core areas for technical cooperation in 1999-2001. Under a memorandum of understanding between WTO and WIPO, the latter will "manage" much of the activity related to TRIPS. And when it provides seminars and other forms of assistance, it typically defers to the developed experience of, and coordinates with, the WIPO in planning and staffing such activities, so that nearly all such assistance is jointly-sponsored by the two agencies. This includes:

- Joint symposia/workshops on the TRIPS Agreement, IPR legislation, and IPR enforcement.
- Joint missions to assist WTO Member countries to meet the 01 January 2000 deadline for implementation of the TRIPS.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For specific information on the substance of the TRIPS Agreement's provisions, contact the WTO's Intellectual Property and Investment Division at:

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INVESTMENT DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5136
 FAX: 41-22-739-

For more information on WTO technical assistance for the TRIPS Agreement, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), based in Geneva, distributes a handbook on "Joint Ventures and the Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)" designed to assist business firms to understand and apply the TRIPS Agreement.

More details on the ITC are in Part III of this guide.

For information on obtaining the ITC's handbook on the TRIPS Agreement, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
 TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
 DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0276
 FAX: 41-22-733-4439
 EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

U.S. Agency for International Development – USAID

The U.S. Agency for International Development makes available technical assistance and services to developing nations to promote openness to trade and investment. USAID's Africa Bureau manages a program directly related to the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules – the African Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) Program. ATRIP provides selected African countries with regional and national WTO-related Awareness Workshops for trade ministry and private sector businesspeople to help them understand and apply GATT/WTO provisions and prepare for forthcoming WTO-sponsored multilateral trade negotiations. These workshops have included lectures and extended discussion of TRIPS and IPR protection issues. In 1998/99, such workshops were sponsored for COMESA trade ministers and in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia.

More details on USAID and its technical assistance activities in Africa are in Part III of this guide.

For USAID/Africa technical assistance information, contact:

DAVID P. DOD
 ATRIP PROGRAM MANAGER
 BUREAU FOR AFRICA
 U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 RONALD REAGAN BUILDING, Rm. 4.06-114,
 1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-4600
 TEL: 202-712-0784
 FAX: 202-216-3373
 EMAIL: DDOD@USAID.GOV

The USAID/Africa Bureau Web Site is: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/>

U.S. Commercial Law Development Program

The Commercial Law Development Program, a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides technical assistance programs financed by the USAID. It offers assistance to support economic and political reform in developing countries, primarily by making available the expertise and services of officials of U.S. Government agencies who deal on a daily basis with the substantive and technical areas addressed by their agencies under agreement with USAID. CLDP programs currently underway or proposed for Sub-Saharan African countries include:

- Sponsorship or Co-Sponsorship with local institutions of **conferences on “Commercialization and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights”** (program has been held in Nigeria and one is planned for the SADC countries of Southern Africa). This program is designed to increase the awareness of the importance of IPR legislation; understanding of the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); and capacity of developing nations to achieve timely compliance with TRIPS obligations.

For more information on the Commercial Law Development Program, contact:

ELIZABETH RICHMAN
PROGRAM ASSISTANT FOR AFRICA
COMMERCIAL LAW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
14TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230
TEL: 202-482-2400
FAX: 202-482-3244
EMAIL: ERICHMAN@DOC.GOV

Commercial Law Development Program's Web Site : <http://www.ogc.doc.gov/ogc/cldp/cldp.html>

INVESTMENT (TRADE AND)/WTO TRIMS AGREEMENT

Until the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT-sponsored multilateral trade negotiations, the GATT applied its rules only to trade in goods since, it was believed, these rules did not apply to investment flows. But, as with agriculture, services, and intellectual property, the Uruguay Round concluded by extending GATT'94/WTO rules and obligations to some limited extent to investment through both the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS).

In concluding the Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) trade ministers recognized that governments sometimes impose requirements on investment, especially foreign direct investment (FDI), that actually reflect goods-related policies (e.g., a desire to protect domestic industries or to use the leverage of investment approval to expand exports). It had been argued that such provisions were inconsistent with GATT provisions relating to trade in goods, particularly Article III which requires "National Treatment" and Article XI that prohibits use of quantitative restrictions on imports. Prior to the TRIMS Agreement, nations—especially developing nations regulating FDI—commonly imposed so-called "domestic content" requirements for approval for investment that required that the investor buy or use products from a domestic source or that they be of domestic origin or limit its use of imported inputs or other supplies to a given percentage of volume or value of exports. Similarly, some governments would restrict imports by an investor either generally or to a level related to foreign exchange flows, sometimes referred to as a "balancing" requirement.

The TRIMS Agreement was intended more to reinforce the applicability of GATT Articles III and XI than to take the WTO deeply into a regulatory role governing investment. It required that all TRIMS which were inconsistent with those articles at the time of the Uruguay Round TRIMS Agreement to be eliminated over a period of time—in the case of developing nations by January 1, 2000 — and that no WTO member country could introduce any *new* measures inconsistent with the GATT'94 nor *increase* the inconsistency of existing measure therewith ("standstill" clause).

In December 1996, the trade ministers at the First WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore identified the relationship between Trade and Investment as one that required immediate study and analysis with a view toward possible eventual negotiations to establish global rules to regulate it. The ministers established a working group on Trade and Investment to address two specific substantive issues: (1) "implications of the relationship . . . for Development and Economic Growth"; and (2) "Analysis of Existing International Instruments and Activities Regarding Trade and Investment.

But there has been continuing controversy among WTO member nations about any enlargement of the scope of the WTO's involvement with regulations or incentives for foreign investment. The often diverging views between various constituencies as to the nature and scope of appropriate investment-related legal/regulatory regimes has caused two prior efforts to define a consensus international investment code to collapse, e.g., the UNCTAD investment code and the OECD's Multilateral Investment Agreement.

Because of the GATT/WTO's relatively recent involvement in investment issues, the lack of significant precedents in the resolution of issues relating to compliance with GATT Articles III and XI in an investment context, and continuing controversy among WTO member countries about negotiating a full-scale WTO Investment Code-type agreement, few of the technical cooperation agencies profiled in this guide have committed technical assistance to facilitate compliance with the TRIMS. For instance, the WTO's current Three Year Plan for Technical Assistance (1999-2001)

does not include TRIMS or Trade and Investment among its 10 priority areas, nor does it appear to focus on TRIMS more than including a basic description of it in its general seminars on the Uruguay Round agreements and obligations. UNCTAD and UNDP appear to have addressed the subject more extensively.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

The UNCTAD is continuing its series of Investment Policy Reviews which aim at helping developing countries to assess, respectively, how they stand in attracting investment consonant with national objectives and the contribution of science and technology to their international competitiveness.”

More details on the technical cooperation activities of the UNCTAD are in Part III of this guide. For more information on UNCTAD’s investment-related technical assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

Web Sites for the UNCTAD include:

For the Positive Agenda for Trade: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

For other technical cooperation programs: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

For general description of UNCTAD activities: <http://www.unctad.org>

NEEDS ASSESSMENT/COUNTRY PLANS/PROGRAM DESIGN

An essential precondition for the effectiveness of technical assistance and cooperation programs is the targeting of real needs of developing countries and the design and delivery of appropriate types and levels of technical assistance to meet such needs. Useful needs assessment requires a thorough understanding of the social, cultural, and economic situation of a developing country in terms of the level of need in a given substantive or technical area as reflecting its capacity, in terms of human resources, institutional infrastructure, and legal/policy structures to operate in that area to meet currently identified needs through the future.

The concept of development is to design effective technical assistance programs to enable the country and its people to acquire sufficient human competency, infrastructural supports, and legal/policy structure to meet current and future needs on a continuing, sustainable basis. A major consideration is *how* and by *whom* needs are identified. In many cases, the agency funding and delivering technical assistance may determine needs on its own, using assessment criteria developed upon an extensive knowledge of the geographical area or substantive or technical areas of need based on long experience therewith (“donor driven”). In other cases, technical assistance may be based upon the self-assessment of need by a prospective recipient country (“demand driven”). Generally speaking, participation by the recipient country in a “demand driven” program of technical assistance tends to convey a feeling of “ownership” and/or “investment” in the program that elicits a higher degree of commitment to and participation in it.

This section explores the role and methods of needs assessment in the delivery of technical services by the agencies profiled in this guide, based on information available from them.

Integrated Framework – IF

The Integrated Framework is demand-driven by participating countries and coordinated among its donor agencies. The Integrated Framework provides assistance based on:

- A country needs assessment carried out by the participating country (using a technical assistance needs identification questionnaire provided by donors).
- An integrated response prepared by donor agencies in consultation with the participating country.
- A “Round Table” meeting between officials of the participating country and representatives of the six donor agencies at which a multi-year country program is agreed upon.

The Integrated Framework donors have produced:

- A Trade-Related Technical Assistance Needs Assessment Questionnaire for identification of country needs.
- An Integrated Response matrix document.
- A country-specific “Status of Implementation” matrix document showing:
 - technical needs identified;
 - the responding donor organization(s);
 - the nature of the technical assistance response;
 - the status of the assistance program; and
 - a “model document” to help LDCs prepare for their meetings with the donors.

More details on IF technical assistance are in Part III of this guide.
For more information on the IF, contact:

INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0346
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: INFO@LDCS.ORG

IF Web Site: <http://www.ldcs.org>

World Trade Organization – WTO

The Guidelines for WTO Technical Cooperation adopted by its Committee on Trade and Development in October 1996 specify, *inter alia*, the following:

- **Objectives/Principles** shall “be demand-driven and adapted to recipient needs, in particular with respect to the best-suited modes of delivery”; and “be complementary to and supportive of recipients’ efforts to identify their own requirements”;
- **Operational Directives** – “the modes of delivery shall be chosen to fit both the requirements of the recipient country and the technical cooperation programs [of the WTO].”
- **WTO Manual on Technical Cooperation and Training:** The WTO Secretariat proposes the mode of delivery, taking into account the recipient country or countries’ level of development and the nature of the request made. The WTO Manual contains a step-by-step outline of the technical assistance process, e.g., (1) request (2) defining the activity (3) coordination with other organizations (4) implementation and (5) follow-up.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.
For additional information about WTO technical assistance, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5237
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

International Organization for Standardization – ISO

In order to respond to the special needs of its members, (national standardizing bodies) the ISO established its Committee on Developing Country Matters (DEVCO). DEVCO administers the ISO Program for Developing Countries. The Program:

- Identifies needs and requirements of developing countries in fields of standardization and assists such countries to define their needs and requirements.

- Recommends measures to assist them in meeting their needs.

The Program is designed to be demand-driven in that recipient governments or standardization agencies are able to suggest and implement their own priorities of assistance available from the ISO. When requests for assistance are received, the Secretary General, or a member of his staff, meets with officials of the government involved to discuss specific needs. Identification of countries' needs is also invited by circulars sent by DEVCO to ISO members in developing countries. Occasionally, ISO liaison officers in the various regions may ascertain and suggest needs to the Secretary General, they meet annually in Geneva to discuss regional needs.

After a recipient country's needs are considered and assessed by DEVCO, they are again discussed with the requesting government or ISO member organization to obtain their confirmation and comments. Subsequently, a responsive form of assistance is agreed

More details on ISO technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide

For additional information on ISO technical assistance activities, contact:

ANWAR EL-TAWIL, DIRECTOR
 PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
 1, RUE DE VAREMBE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-749-0111
 FAX: 41-22-749-0151
 EMAIL: ELTAWIL@ISO.CH

The ISO's Web Site is: <http://www.iso.ch>

World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO

Most technical assistance is delivered through bilaterally agreed national action plans. WIPO's main Program 08 technical assistance activities, e.g., WIPO Worldwide Academy and Human Resources Development, provide worldwide training and technical assistance through:

- Worldwide Academy
- Professional training
- Policy level training

The development of training modules is demand-driven. Target audience definition and needs analysis precede the design of distance learning materials. Teaching methods and appropriate media for course delivery are selected on basis of actual needs of the target groups.

More details on WIPO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide

For additional information on WIPO's technical assistance, contact:

GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, DIRECTOR
 COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/AFRICA BUREAU
 WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
 34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-338-9111
 FAX: 41-22-338-8840
 EMAIL: GEOFFREY.ONYEAMA@WIPO.INT

WIPO Web Site: <http://www.wipo.int>

United Nations Development Program – UNDP

In the case of the UNDP's Capacity Building for Trade and Development Project, the project appears to have been reformulated from one without substantial local input to more of a demand-driven project, e.g., Project technical assistance activities were based upon the recommendations of a team of four African experts while affected governments, public and private institutions and organizations of civil society were consulted before formalizing the design of the project to ensure that actual needs and wishes thereof were reflected.

More detailed information on the activities of the UNDP are in Part III of this guide
 For further information on the UNDP's technical assistance program in Africa, contact:

LEBOGANG MOTLANA
 REGIONAL PROGRAM ADVISOR
 OPERATIONS GROUP II/AFRICA
 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
 ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
 NEW YORK, NY 10017
 TEL: 212-906-6012
 FAX: 212-906-5953 OR 5974
 EMAIL: LEBOGANG.MOTLANA@UNDP.ORG

UNDP Web Site: <http://www.undp.org>

For information on the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, see:
<http://www.undp.org/rba/welcome.htm>

World Bank

By contacting the Trade Program at the World Bank Institute, developing countries can work with the World Bank to customize training and dissemination activities based on programs to meet their needs. Activities supported will be either components of Bank programs or projects in participating developing countries. For example a country interested in incorporating WTO requirements into their World Bank projects would discuss their interests with the World Bank's Country Director, Country Economist, or Resident Representative.

When the country's officials and the Bank's Country Team agree that it might be useful to include such work in their program, the design features will be incorporated.

According to World Bank criteria, the project should have identifiable local beneficiaries and stakeholders who should be aware that WTO requirements are involved.

More detailed information on the World Bank's technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the World Bank's technical assistance activities, contact:

PHILIP ENGLISH
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 1818 "H" STREET, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20433
 TEL: 202-473-6483
 FAX: 202-676-9810
 EMAIL: PENGLISH@WORLDBANK.ORG

The World Bank's primary Web Site for technical assistance activities is:

<http://www.worldbank.org/trade>

European Union – EU

Technical assistance programs of the European Union (EU) are demand-driven, e.g., countries usually approach the Delegation of the Commission in their respective countries to indicate the need for technical assistance in certain areas. National Authorization Officers (generally Ministers of Planning) of ACP countries submit a proposal for technical assistance which are then presented to the European Commission in Brussels, where the evaluation process starts. The Commission:

- Appraises the need for the suggested assistance,
- Verifies its conformity with the National Indicative Program, and
- Approves release of the necessary funds.

The process to approve technical assistance projects might take up to six months. For larger projects e.g., regional programs or those that benefit all ACP countries, the Commission might suggest certain projects to representatives of the ACP countries, conduct feasibility studies to determine where technical assistance is required, or might follow other donor's suggestions.

For more detailed information on the European Union's technical assistance activities see Part III of this guide.

For more information on the Commission's technical assistance activities, contact:

MR. INGO FEUSTEL
 CHEF DE DIVISION
 TRADE POLICY
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT
 (EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
 FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH AFRICA,
 THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE PACIFIC;
 LOMÉ CONVENTION).
 PHONE: +32-2-299-2528
 FAX: +32-2-299-4895
 EMAIL: INGO.FEUSTEL@DG8.CEC.BE

European Commission Web Site: <http://europa.eu.int>.

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

Among the ITC's "six core services" are ". . . needs assessment and program design." The ITC's Division of Technical Cooperation Coordination's mandate is to:

- Understand and articulate the needs of client developing nations
- Identify local organizations that can act as partners for the ITC national capacity building programs, and
- Help ensure that its applied research and program development processes are fully directed at responding to the evolving trade development needs of particular countries.

In formulating the program response, the DTCC considers adaptation of ITC assistance products on the basis of a needs analysis and available financing. The ITC is developing diagnostic tools for the design, testing, and application of needs analyses to help client countries identify and prioritize their trade development needs.

More details on the ITC technical assistance programs are in Part III of this guide.

For further information on ITC technical assistance, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
 TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
 DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0276
 FAX: 41-22-733-4439
 EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

Specific forms of technical assistance available to participating countries from JITAP include "needs assessment and program design." An integrated JITAP team from UNCTAD, WTO, and the ITC works with representatives of the recipient country to assess country needs and design a country-specific assistance program.

JITAP technical assistance will eventually be incorporated into the Integrated Framework program – see following.

More details on JITAP and its programs of technical assistance are in Part III of this guide

For additional information on JITAP technical assistance, contact:

At UNCTAD:

MARCEL NAMFUA
SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISOR/
COORDINATOR FOR THE JITAP
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

At the WTO:

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5207
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

At the ITC UNCTAD/WTO:

ABDELKRIM BEN FADHI
SENIOR TRADE PROMOTION ADVISOR/
CHIEF TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0359
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: BENFADHI@INTRACEN.ORG

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

The many notification requirements of the GATT '94 and Uruguay Round agreements reflect the basic GATT principle of Transparency embodied in the publication and discoverability requirements of Article X of the GATT'94 and various notification requirements of the Uruguay Round agreements.

Throughout the GATT and the Uruguay Round agreements there are provisions requiring WTO Member countries to notify their adoption of trade measures affecting the operation of the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules and their application of these rules in practice. The goal of notification is to contribute to the transparency of national trade regimes, to facilitate surveillance mechanisms for determining the level of observance of member countries of their obligations and commitments under the GATT/WTO framework, and to give other members timely notice and opportunity to consult on actions taken by members that affect the market access rights of other member countries and their nationals.

At least three of the agencies profiled in this guide provide technical assistance related to notification requirements, e.g., the WTO, UNCTAD, and JITAP programs.

World Trade Organization – WTO

WTO Central Registry of Notifications (CRN): The Marrakesh Decision on Notification Procedures states that the WTO's Central Registry of Notifications “. . . shall inform each Member annually of the regular notification obligations to which that Member will be expected to respond in the course of the following year.” In effect the CRN provides Members with two notifications a year:

- Once in July of each year “reminding” the Member country of cumulative unfulfilled notification requirements as of 30 June of each year.
- Once in December of each year advising them of all regular notifications expected of them in the following year.

WTO Technical Assistance: The World Trade Organization provides developing countries with issue-specific, focused technical missions to describe notification requirements, the notification process, and assist them to meet their notification obligations. The WTO also makes available a complete Guide to Notification Obligations that include notification requirements and models of the formats that should be used to prepare notifications.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For general information about WTO technical assistance activities, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION & TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

For specific information concerning WTO notification requirements and status of notifications, contact:

JOHN C. W. DICKSON
CENTRAL REGISTRY OF NOTIFICATIONS
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
TEL: 41-22-739-5430
FAX: 41-22-739-5197
EMAIL: CRN@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

UN Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

The UNCTAD, under its Positive Agenda for Trade, includes discussion in its regional and sub-regional workshops on the WTO and the GATT/Uruguay Round agreements of WTO notification obligations and how they relate to enhancing capabilities for asserting rights under the GATT/WTO rules and meaningful participation in future trade negotiations.

More details on the UNCTAD's trade-related technical assistance are Part III of this guide.

For more information on UNCTAD's trade-related technical assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS & SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES, COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

Web Site for UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade:

<http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP), a joint program of the WTO, UNCTAD, and the ITC, provides (in close association with the WTO) assistance via issue-specific technical missions to assist developing countries to understand and implement their WTO notification requirements.

More detailed information on JITAP technical assistance are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on JITAP technical assistance, contact:

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
TECHNICAL COOPERATION & TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5207
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Regional groups in Africa, as elsewhere, have both political and economic motives for promoting regional trade arrangements. Among the economic goals are to (a) eliminate or reduce impediments to trade and investment and; (b) to encourage trade through harmonization of trade-related legal/regulatory systems; and (c) coordination of compatible macroeconomic and monetary policies.

Nevertheless, a major concern relating to regional integration agreements is the need for complementarity between regional and multilateral approaches to trade liberalization.

The subject is important because of the number of regional economic/trade integration arrangements existing in Africa.

European Union – EU

The European Union's Capacity Building and Coherence in Global Economic Policy Making technical assistance project is designed to increase the awareness of ACP nations of the opportunities inherent in the multilateral trading system and the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules. It provides technical services to such countries, *inter alia*, to enhance the capacities of national ministries of trade in the areas of trade policy, trade promotion, and regional economic integration. The goal, in part, is to strengthen countries' capacity to participate effectively in regional integration groupings.

More detailed information on the European Union's technical assistance programs are in Part III of the guide.

For additional information on the European Union's technical assistance activities, contact:

MR. INGO FEUSTEL
 CHEF DE DIVISION
 TRADE POLICY
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT
 (EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
 FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH AFRICA,
 THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE PACIFIC;
 LOMÉ CONVENTION)
 PHONE: +32-2-299-2528
 FAX: +32-2-299-4895
 EMAIL: INGO.FEUSTEL@DG8.CEC.BE

European Commission Web Site <http://europa.eu.int>

Documents describing and analyzing EU-ACP relations may be found at:
<http://www.oneworld.org/ecdpm/en/pubs/acplist.htm>

U.S. Agency for International Development – USAID

USAID/Africa has been providing significant technical assistance to African countries to support their regional economic integration activities.

- **Capacity Building in Regional Trade Policy/Integration.** USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) in Botswana is providing members of the South African Development Community (SADC) with assistance to facilitate their agreement on, and

phased implementation of, the SADC Trade Protocol which envisions a Southern African free trade area.

- **Mozambique: Trade Policy Capacity Building for Regional Integration.** USAID/Mozambique is providing assistance to Mozambique to enable it to complete negotiations for participation in and ratification of the SADC Trade Protocol as well as to define the requirements for Protocol implementation over an eight-year period. This assistance has included:
 - support for preparation and negotiation with other SADC members of Mozambique's proposals and final offers on sensitive, gradual, and immediate lists for removal or reduction of tariffs under the Protocol;
 - provision of a comprehensive overview of the terms and implications of the SADC Protocol for the private sector;
 - facilitation of a consensus between public and private sectors to proceed with ratification;
 - support for ratification among parliamentarians;
 - identification and supply of further training and technical services needed to enable Mozambique to participate effectively in regional and multilateral trade negotiations.
- **Uganda: Formulation of National and Regional Trade Policies.** USAID/Uganda has been assisting the Government of Uganda in developing its capacity to fully understand and implement obligations under both, the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules, and the EAC and COMESA regional trade agreements. With regard to regional agreement-specific assistance, USAID is:
 - assisting in the examination of tariff changes;
 - helping to develop the list of product exceptions;
 - clarifying Uganda's interest in other types of exceptions;
 - assisting in understanding Rules of Origin and efforts to reduce trade distortions which maximizing advantages for Uganda.

More details on USAID and its technical assistance activities in Africa are in Part III of this guide.

For USAID/Africa technical assistance information, contact:

DAVID P. DOD
 ATRIP PROGRAM MANAGER
 AFRICA BUREAU/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 RONALD REAGAN BUILDING, Rm. 4.06-114,
 1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20423-4600
 TEL: 202-712-0784
 FAX: 202-216-3373
 EMAIL: DDOD@USAID.GOV

For more information on USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) and its work with SADC, contact:

SHEMMY SIMUYEMBA
PROJECT TEAM LEADER
USAID REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
GABORONE
BOTSWANA
TEL.: 267-324449
FAX: 267-324404

The USAID/Africa Bureau Web Site is: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/>

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - UNCTAD

The UNCTAD, under its Positive Agenda for Trade, provides for the discussion of African regional integration issues and concerns as part of its regional/sub-regional workshops and training programs.

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS & SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES & COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GOVVS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD' Positive Agenda for Trade Web Site: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>
and the Web Site for its other technical assistance programs is:

<http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

SERVICES – WTO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES (GATS)

The conclusion of the WTO Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in 1994 was historic in that it resulted in the first international rules agreed upon to govern trade in Services. Until that time the GATT had applied only to trade in goods. The Uruguay Round's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) established rules and disciplines on policies affecting access to service markets, greatly expanding the WTO's coverage of the multilateral trading system. GATS consists of two main elements: (1) a set of general concepts and rules that apply basic GATT principles across the board to measures affecting trade in services unless otherwise committed to by Member countries; and (2) WTO Member country-by-country specific commitments on application of National Treatment and market access to specific Services sub-sectors. After the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the entry into effect of the WTO, more specific agreements were concluded by a number of WTO Member countries in the areas of Financial Services and Telecommunications Services. While the GATS is binding upon *all* WTO Member countries as a condition for WTO Membership under the Uruguay Round "Single Undertaking," the Financial Services and Telecommunications Services Agreements constitute "plurilateral" agreements, i.e., binding only on the *signatories* thereto. The GATS Agreement itself, now part of the WTO's "Built-In Agenda" for the new round of multilateral trade negotiations (commencing at the Third Ministerial in Seattle), provides for a first round of negotiations on progressive liberalization of the general levels of specific commitments in the GATS.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Technical assistance to developing countries for enhancing their understanding and implementation of the GATS has been listed by the WTO in its current Three Year Plan for Technical Assistance (1999-2001) as priority number six. The WTO maintains a Trade in Services Division that focuses on implementation of the GATS, including on-going negotiations. In this regard, the WTO has sponsored, co-sponsored, or participated in at least eight regional seminars on Services.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

The WTO's Trade in Services Division may be contacted at:

TRADE IN SERVICES DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5390
 FAX: 41-22-739-5771

For additional information on the WTO's technical assistance activities, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
 TEL: 41-22-739-5237
 FAX: 41-22-739-5764
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

Coordinated African Program of Assistance on Services - CAPAS

Coordinated by UNCTAD, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and UN-DESA, CAPAS is a program of technical assistance relating specifically to building national capacity for policy-making in Africa in the area of Trade in Services. The program provides African policymakers with tools to develop national policies and regional policies affecting Services, primarily by focusing on the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The CAPAS program provides:

- Regional seminars and other programs on implementation of national obligations and commitments under the GATS; and
- Funds research studies to assist governments to identify national interests and develop national and regional negotiating positions and strategies for future negotiations involving trade in Services.

More details on CAPAS may be found in Part III of this guide.

For more information on CAPAS activities, contact:

NORBERT S. LEBALE/MARCEL NAMFUA
INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: NORBERT.LEBALE@UNCTAD.ORG
MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

Information on CAPAS can be downloaded from the World Bank's WTO 2000 Capacity Building Project Web Site at http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/wto2000_region_work.html

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

The International Trade Centre (ITC) has developed technical assistance focused on import/exporting enterprises relating to services, including:

- Program on Trade in Services, designed to pursue enhancement of the ability of developing countries to nurture, support, and sustain export growth in their Services sector by, *inter alia*, ensuring that service firms understand and are able to take advantage of the export opportunities available under the Uruguay Round's GATS.
- Publication of its Business Guide to GATS.
- Publication of Successful Services Exporting – A Handbook.

More details on the ITC are in Part III of this guide.

For information on obtaining the ITC's Business Guide to the GATS and other ITC assistance, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0276
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade provides workshops that address generally the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules and includes discussion of the Uruguay Round's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on UNCTAD's trade-related technical assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES, COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GOVVS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade Web Site: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

STANDARDS/TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE/WTO AGREEMENTS

Governments have a basic responsibility to their citizens to ensure that imported products, like domestic products, do not pose threats to the health and safety of *consumers*—or defraud them as to quality—and that imported products meet minimum standards for health, safety, quality, and appropriate usage. There is also a temptation, however, to use standards and their conformity assessment and enforcement procedures to protect *domestic producers* by preventing their entry on the pretext of protecting public health or safety, or by finding that they fail to meet minimum standards for safety or quality—in fact using them as non-tariff barriers (NTBs). Often countries resort to the use of standards determination and enforcement as ways of avoiding trade liberalization through their tariff reduction commitments.

The Uruguay Round Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS Agreement) and on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) were intended to regulate and prevent the use of standards for non-health/safety purposes and as non-tariff barriers to trade. The SPS Agreement sets out the rights and obligations of Member countries when taking measures to ensure food safety, protect human health from plant or animal-spread diseases, or protect plant and animal health from pests and diseases. The TBT Agreement is aimed at ensuring that activities relating to mandatory technical regulations and voluntary standards, and their conformity assessment/enforcement procedures, do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade. Both Agreements encourage the international harmonization, though neither prescribes the use of specific international standards. For purposes of international harmonization the SPS Agreement identifies use of the documents from the Codex Alimentarius (Food Safety); the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) (animal health and zoonoses); and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (plant health). The TBT Agreement contains no similar list given the breadth of agricultural and industrial products within its scopes. Ultimately, the determination of whether there is a relevant international standard that is appropriate and effective for a particular regulatory or market objective rests with the regulatory authority or purchaser, as appropriate.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The WTO TBT and SPS Agreements established committees, open to participation by all member governments, to oversee the operation and implementation of the Agreements. The committees meet regularly and provide means to promote and facilitate developing nations' understanding and compliance with the rules and provisions of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. The WTO regularly cooperates with other organizations who have scientific and technical expertise, such as those specifically identified in the SPS Agreement and/or which have requested observer status in the SPS/TBT Committees. Whether on its own or in co-sponsorship with another body, the WTO makes substantial technical assistance available in these two areas:

- The WTO's current three-year Technical Cooperation Plan (1999-2001) places the SPS Agreement (with Agriculture) in first place and the TBT Agreement in fourth place in its listing of its ten priority areas of focus for technical assistance in the period. The WTO's Trade and Environment Division houses a unit with technical specialists in standards and technical barriers to trade (the Trade and Environment Division) who are familiar with the

provisions of the SPS/TBT Agreements and may provide assistance to African trade and scientific officials.

- The WTO's efforts to expand understanding and foster implementation of the SPS/TBT Agreements are channeled through:
 - Regional/national seminars that generally address the nature and requirements of the GATT/WTO Agreements and include significant substantive discussion of the SPS and TBT;
 - Regional/national technical workshops that focus specifically on aspects of standards (formulation, interpretation, assessment, enforcement) and the requirements of the SPS and TBT Agreements (formulation, enforcement, notification to WTO, and establishment of SPS/TBT Enquiry Points);
 - Training courses that provide a lengthier, more technically intensive education in the standards area, international standardization, and requirements of the SPS/TBT;
 - Legal/legislative assistance for the review, commentary on, and drafting assistance for laws, regulations, or legislative or administrative proposals.

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Sanitary standards essentially focus on ensuring the safety and quality of food products and agricultural commodities. The FAO is an important international organization dealing with food and agricultural products, including food security, food trade issues, and food and agricultural product safety and quality. The FAO assists developing countries in capacity building with regard to the formulation, interpretation, application, and enforcement of food standards and quality guidelines, in large part through its co-sponsorship with the WHO and management of the Codex Alimentarius. The Codex is a global reference point for food producers, consumers, national food control agencies and international food trade.

The FAO's Technical Cooperation Department manages its Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), which provides technical assistance and services through the implementation of in-country, sub-regional, and regional programs and projects. Specifically, the FAO/TCP affords technical assistance to developing countries for Capacity Building for policy analysis and formulation of food and related standards and procedures for food quality and inspection under the SPS Agreement and certain provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. More specifically, the FAO provides:

- Training programs for government officials on Uruguay Round agreement requirements (SPS, Agriculture).
- Production of training materials addressing international trade in food and agricultural products and application and enforcement of food/agricultural standards.

As part of the special program for assistance in future agricultural and other trade negotiations, the FAO has:

- Provided information on electronic access to sources of information relating to the adoption, interpretation, application, and enforcement of food/agricultural product standards and the requirements of the SPS and Agriculture Agreements.
- Developed a training kit covering in detail the SPS and Agriculture Agreements.
- Conferences on WTO obligations relating to agricultural and food standards, in particular the Uruguay Round Agreements on SPS and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

(A conference in Africa on food and agricultural standards and the SPS and TBT Agreements is scheduled for Harare in Spring 2000.)

The FAO also

- Manages the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), which provides information for implementing the WTO's Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries.
- Provides technical assistance via the FAO/World Health Organization's Codex Alimentarius Commission on issues related to sanitary and food standards.

More details on the FAO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on the role of the FAO in supporting international food and agricultural product safety and standards, contact:

JAMES GREENFIELD, DIRECTOR
 COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION
 FAO
 VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA,
 00100 ROME, ITALY
 TEL: 39-06-570-53856
 FAX: 39-06-570-54495
 EMAIL: JAMES.GREENFIELD@FAO.ORG

FAO Web Site: <http://www.fao.org>

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was founded to promote the development of standardization and related activities so as to facilitate the international exchange of goods and services and support international cooperation and harmonization of product standards, quality assessment, and the certification thereof. Through its Committee on Developing Country Matters, the ISO provides training seminars, publishes and distributes development manuals on standards-related topics. It also delivers technical services to exporters concerning the standards requirements of importing countries, sponsors workshops on consumer involvement in standardization, and arranges conferences and symposia covering recent developments in standards testing and certification. These programs include:

- Development of training manuals on:
 - establishment and management of a National Standards Body;
 - conformity assessment;
 - training of technical staff – national and company level;
 - teaching of standardization in institutions of higher learning in developing countries;
 - development and organization of a company standards department;
 - application of standards;
 - participation in international standardization activities;
 - organization and development of a National Standards Information Center;

- establishment and operation of a testing laboratory for a National Standards Body;
 - guidelines for selecting and adopting/adapting international standards for national use; and
 - introduction to standardization and its uses in exports.
- Other technical assistance activities including:
 - identification and accommodation of standardization needs in developing countries;
 - training, consisting of regional training seminars, fellowships in standards-related institutions, assisting in the arrangement of placements in appropriate training institutions and training of technical officers for ISO technical committee secretariat functions;
 - financing member participation in ISO standards committee meetings;
 - assistance to member bodies in identifying new international standardization projects in areas of economic importance and coordinating actions for launching a standards initiative;
 - provision of documentation and information systems;
 - preparation of standards promotional materials.

More details on the ISO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on the ISO's standards capacity building assistance activities, contact:

ANWAR EL-TAWIL, DIRECTOR
 PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
 1, RUE DE VAREMBE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-749-0111
 FAX: 41-22-749-0151
 EMAIL: ELTAWIL@ISO.CH

ISO Web Site: <http://www.iso.ch>

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO - ITC

The ITC is a technical cooperation organization jointly funded by the United Nations and the WTO, whose mission is to support developing and transition economies, particularly their business sectors, in their efforts to realize their potential for expanding international trade for achievement of sustainable economic development. Among its relevant technical assistance activities are:

- Training program on Export Quality and Packaging Management designed to enable small and mid-sized exporting enterprises to understand and meet product quality and packaging requirements (health, safety, environmental) based on international standards and, in particular, the Uruguay Round SPS and TBT Agreements and ISO standards.
- Technical Workshops on Implications for Exporters of Selected WTO Agreements, including the SPS and TBT Agreements.
- ITC Handbook on the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements.

More details on the ITC and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on ITC technical assistance, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0276
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD

UNCTAD's Positive Agenda for Trade conferences in Africa includes discussion of Uruguay Round agreements, including the SPS and TBT Agreements.

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on UNCTAD's technical assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES, COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD's technical cooperation Web Site: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID/Africa's African Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) Program and USAID/Pretoria have included WTO Agreement-Specific Technical Workshops on Standards and the Uruguay Round SPS and TBT Agreements with participating staff from USAID, USTR, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

More details on USAID and its technical assistance programs for Africa are in Part III of this guide.

For USAID/Africa technical assistance, contact:

DAVID P. DOD
 ATRIP PROGRAM MANAGER
 AFRICA BUREAU/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 RONALD REAGAN BUILDING, RM. 4.06-114,
 1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-4600
 TEL: 202-712-0784
 FAX: 202-216-3373

USAID/Africa Bureau's Web Site is: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, in cooperation with USAID/Africa, has undertaken a project to help three East African countries to develop a common and improved set of standards for trade and transportation in the region (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania).

More details on the Department of Agriculture/FAS may be found in Part III of this Guide. For more information on the FAS Harmonization Standards project, contact:

HOWARD ANDERSON
 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
 ROOM 3219 (STOP 1087),
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-1087
 TEL: 202-690-1924
 EMAIL: ANDERSONH@FAS.USDA.GOV

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

SIDA is the Swedish Government agency that plans and administers Sweden's bilateral cooperation programs with developing countries.

In May 1999, SIDA sponsored and organized the World Trade and Conformity Assessment, Quality Infrastructure Development training course for participants from ten sub-Saharan countries. The program's objectives were to provide information and training to relevant government officials and representatives of business on international standards and conformity assessment. The program included discussion of:

- Basic principles of international trade, with specific emphasis on WTO obligations, effects on participating countries, notification requirements, and other impacts.
- Technical activities for the establishment of standards and conformity assessment procedures concerned with national and international trade, safety, health, and environmental requirements.
- Development of national standards/quality institutions for standardization, accreditation, certification, inspection, enforcement, testing, metrology, and quality assurance.

- The International Organization for Standardization concept of quality and quality systems development (ISO 9000), TQM, and quality prices.
- Standardization, Accreditation, Certification agencies (role, organization, and international and mutual recognition requirements).
- Metrology, Testing, Inspection role and requirements.

More detailed information on SIDA and its technical cooperation activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on SIDA's economic cooperation, contact:

GORAN EDEHORN
 INEC/PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
 SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
 SVEAVAGEN 20
 10525 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
 TEL: 46-8-698-5000
 FAX: 46-8-208-864
 EMAIL: GORAN.EDEHORN@SIDA.SE

SIDA Web Site: <http://www.sida.se>

World Bank

In November, 1999, the World Bank established a new program on international standards, technical regulations and trade policy. The overall goal of an initial three-year project to launch this work centers on increased understanding of the policy implications and economic impact of standards and government technical regulations on world trade and development. Information is available at: http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/WTO_2000.html

For more information contact:

MR. JOHN SULLIVAN WILSON
 PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST
 DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP (DECRG)
 THE WORLD BANK
 1818 H STREET, N.W. MC3-319
 WASHINGTON, DC 20433
 TEL: (202) 473-2065
 FAX: (202) 522-1159
 E-MAIL: JSWILSON@WORLDBANK.ORG

Additional Information on Standards

There are a number of other organizations, which develop and publish standards for use on a global basis. Specific information on the range of organization has not been included here. The U.S inquiry point (ncsci@nist.gov) has published a Directory of International and Regional Organizations Conducting Standards-Related Activities. It will also respond to requests for information on a variety of U.S. based international standardizing bodies (e.g., ASTM, ASME, NFPA, IEEE).

For information on specific standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment requirements and sanitary and phytosanitary measures in a particular market, an important source of information is

the central contact points established under the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade and on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. These lists are periodically updated by the WTO Secretariat and are published on the WTO web site (<http://www.wto.org>). See, for example, G/TBT/ENQ.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Negotiations during the Uruguay Round, while they resulted in conclusion of the WTO Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) failed to produce consensus on global rules to govern the growing area of telecommunications. However, on 15 February 1997, negotiators concluded the WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications Services, a “plurilateral” agreement, meaning that it is binding *only* upon its signatory nations. Nevertheless, the 72 Members of the WTO that signed the Agreement account for 95 percent of world telecommunications revenue – a US\$ 675 billion industry. The Basic Telecommunications Agreement covers, depending on the specific commitments in schedules tabled by signatories: voice telephony, data transmission, telex, telegraph, facsimile, private leased circuit services, fixed and mobile satellite systems and services, cellular telephony, mobile data services, paging and personal communications systems. In planning for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, some Members have advocated that the Basic Telecommunications Agreement be negotiated into an instrument binding on all Members.

The International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank, and the European Union are important potential sources of technical assistance in the area of telecommunications. Information on these programs in Africa was not collected at the time of preparation of this guide.

United States: Federal Communications Commission

The United States Federal Communications Commission has begun a new technical assistance initiative to assist developing countries to build independent, transparent, pro-competitive regulatory regimes to liberalize and privatize their telecommunications sectors and to provide open international access to their markets. This initiative is focused initially upon African countries with Ghana, South Africa, and Uganda having indicated interest in participating.

Additional telecom regulatory training and advisory assistance from USAID and the FCC for other sub-Saharan African countries is in the planning stages.

For information on the FCC initiative, contact:

ADONIS HOFFMAN
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH STREET, S.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554
TEL: 202-418-0429
FAX: 202-

The FCC Web Site is <http://www.fcc.gov>

United States: U.S. Agency for International Trade–USAID

In September 1999, USAID/Africa completed a five-year Southern Africa Regional Telecommunications Restructuring Program (RTRP). The RTRP assisted twelve countries in Southern Africa in the establishment and strengthening of their telecommunications regulatory authorities. The project all helped establish the Telecommunications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (TRASASA), a regional grouping of regulators that seeks to promote common

standards and regulatory processes throughout Southern Africa. Successor activities, supporting both TRASA and the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission, SADC's unit for the coordination of telecommunications policy, are currently being designed.

For further information on USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA), contact:

SHEMMY SIMUYEMBA
PROJECT TEAM LEADER
USAID REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
GABORONE
BOTSWANA
TEL.: 267-324449
FAX: 267-324404

(See Web Site: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/growth.html> .)

United States: Telecommunications Training Institute

The United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), established in 1982, is a non-profit educational institution funded by United States government and industry. Its Board of Directors includes representatives from the Departments of Commerce and State and the Federal Communications Commission. Its curriculum includes more than 100 courses for telecommunications professionals, taught by USTTI, U.S. government and industry officials. With the advent of the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement, USTTI has incorporated more regulatory reform policy components into its technical curriculum. Approximately one-fifth of USTTI's training courses include segments on regulatory reform implications of the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement, including instruction on latest developments in telecommunications law and regulation.

Additionally, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), is another source of telecommunications expertise. NTIA worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, the FCC, and the U.S. Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), to develop and implement training workshops for foreign telecommunications regulatory authorities. The three, three-day workshops, which were focused on implementing the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement, were held in Washington, D.C. and covered a range of issues, including interconnection, spectrum management and universal service. The workshops also offered participants from developed and developing countries around the world a chance to review and discuss case-studies relevant to a liberalized market.

Contact information:

UNITED STATES TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING INSTITUTE
1150 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
SUITE 702
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
USA
TELEPHONE: 202-785-7373
FAX: 202-785-1930
E-MAIL: TRAIN@USTTI.ORG

United States: Department of State

The Office of International Communications & Information Policy of the U.S. Department of State conducts and participates in numerous activities providing help and support to other countries involving technical telecommunications issues. The State Department has been charged with coordination of a Presidential initiative, "Internet for Economic Development." This program will seek to accelerate the spread of the Internet and its applications (such as electronic commerce) in developing countries. The interagency committee working on design and implementation of the program has selected a dozen pilot countries and is undertaking discussions with these countries and their resident U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) missions on possible activities. This effort builds on experiences under AID's Leland Initiative, which since 1996 has been bringing the Internet to a select group of African countries. The new program will have four main components: 1) policy reforms to promote a pro-competitive environment for Internet services, 2) limited infrastructure assistance, 3) training, and 4) demonstrations of Internet applications most likely to spur economic development. At present, most programs will begin with existing AID funding, but partnerships with the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other multilateral institutions are being explored, as are partnerships with the private sector.

Contact information:

Ms. DOREEN F. MCGIRR,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ITU DEVELOPMENT SECTOR
EB/CIP, ROOM 4826
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION POLICY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520
TELEPHONE: 202-647-0201
FAX: 202-647-7407
E-MAIL: MCGIRRDF@STATE.GOV

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING (WTO AGREEMENT ON)

The Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) is intended to integrate world trade in textile and clothing products back into the framework of GATT rules and out of special arrangements under the Multifibre Agreement. The Agreement establishes a 10-year period for the gradual enlargement of all quantitative restrictions on imports of textiles and clothing, subject, in the meantime, to a special, transitional safeguard arrangement.

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

The International Trade Centre, which focuses its technical assistance activities and services to enhance the export prospects of developing country exporting enterprises, has produced two publications relating to the ATC:

- The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: An Overview
- The Changing Pattern of International Trade in Textiles and Clothing: Implications of the Introduction of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on the Developing Countries' Producing/Exporting of Textiles and Clothing

More details on the ITC are in Part III of this guide.

For information on obtaining the ITC's publications, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
 TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
 DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/ITC
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-730-0276
 FAX: 41-22-733-4439
 EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

World Trade Organization – WTO

The World Trade Organization lists the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing as Number three in its list of contemplated technical assistance priorities in its Three-Year Plan for Technical Assistance (1999-2001). The subject is addressed in its general seminars and workshops on the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules.

The WTO's Textiles Division handles matters relating to textiles and clothing, the Agreement thereon, and the work of the Textiles Monitoring Body which monitors Member country implementation of the ATC.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

The WTO Textiles Division may be contacted at:

TEXTILES DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5611
FAX: 41-22-739-577

For more information on WTO technical assistance with textiles and clothing, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
TEL: 41-22-739-5611
FAX: 41-22-739-5776
EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

TRADE POLICY ANALYSIS AND FORMULATION

Trade policy is at the heart of a nation's ability to participate in the multilateral trading system and avail itself of the rights and comply with the obligations of the GATT/WTO framework of global rules for international trade. Ultimately, all aspects of a government participation in importing and exporting are defined by its trade-related policies and they, in turn, by the capacity of its officials and responsible institutions to engage in the functions of policy analysis, statistical aggregation, understanding and application of GATT/WTO rules, and trade negotiation. The primary capacity building assistance programs in trade-policy are listed below.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization is responsible for the administration, management, interpretation and application of the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules. It is also responsible for resolution of disputes arising out of that framework, and multilateral negotiations to change or enlarge the framework. Hence, among all the organizations profiled in this guide, the WTO is the single largest repository of expertise and experience with the body of rules pertaining to the GATT/WTO system and is preeminently qualified to provide technical cooperation and training related to that system in these technical areas.

The WTO makes its expertise available primarily to developing nations—and particularly to least-developed countries—either as a direct single provider, or indirectly in partnership with other organizations and sources. The goal of all of these activities is to enhance competency of government trade and other officials and to strengthen and equip the administrative and regulatory institutions required to appropriately implement the GATT/WTO rules for global trade. The WTO's technical assistance in this respect includes:

- **Trade Policy Courses** – 12 to 14 week courses given in Geneva for developing country trade officials that are designed to widen the participants' understanding of trade policy matters, the nature of the multilateral trading system, relevant international trade law, and the functions and operations of the WTO.
- **Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)** – The TPRM provides a periodic, thoroughgoing review of nearly all aspects of any Member country's trade policies and trade-related legal/regulatory regime. It operates on the process of: (a) an initial report to the WTO by the subject country of its trade regime and policies; (b) a subsequent intensive analysis thereof prepared by the WTO Secretariat's Trade Policy Review Body; (c) establishment of a working party of WTO Members for the country's assessment of both the country's and the POR Body's review documents; and (e) an intensive discussion between the members of the working party, and trade and other officials of the subject country. The TPRM review permits the country to understand any deficiencies that may be noted either in its trade policies/regime or its level of compliance with GATT/WTO agreements and rules.
- **Seminars** (national, regional) generally describing and illustrating the application of the Uruguay Round agreements and the procedures, processes, and operation of the WTO as an institution. Seminars may also focus on specific technical topics such as trade remedies, customs valuation, standards (SPS/TBT), or TRIPS, including the specific requirements Members face to meet their GATT/WTO obligations. These seminars may last for a few

hours to five or more days. Additionally, the WTO conducts a special “Geneva Week” for non-resident delegations of WTO Member countries or for officials of countries in the process of WTO accession.

- **Workshops** usually targeting particular areas of trade policy analysis, formation, or implementation – these may involve lectures, theoretical presentations, case studies, or simulations related to the analysis and resolution of a given technical issue. Such workshops may last a few hours or a few days.
- **Training courses** with defined curricula and performance objectives, developed to enhance competency in either trade policy development, the implementation (administrative, regulatory, enforcement) of WTO agreements or productive participation in dispute resolution, consultation, or negotiations. Training courses can last a few days or extend up to a month or more.
- **Infrastructure support**, designed to strengthen trade-related institutions of Member countries (or those in the process of accession) through WTO Reference Centers (internet connection, documentary resources, training for information gathering, networking capabilities), and installation of computer hardware/software, including for example, CD-ROM capabilities to permit Internet-based “distance learning” on the GATT/WTO system and agreements.
- **Interactive guides** to the WTO system, including the WTO and Developing Countries, Reading WTO Schedules, the Dispute Settlement Process, Uruguay Round Agreements, Directory of Trade Policy Educational and Training Resources, Directory of Internet Trade and Development Links, and others technical subjects.

All of these forms of capacity building technical assistance and services are available from the WTO through its Technical Cooperation and Training Division. More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on WTO capacity-building assistance, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION – WTO
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5611
 FAX: 41-22-739-5776
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD’s “Positive Agenda for Trade” specifically focuses its technical assistance for African countries on capacity-building in: (a) the identification and analysis of international trade-related issues; (b) trade policy formation and negotiations; and (c) assistance with regard to WTO accession requirements/procedures. With this specific focus on trade policy, it:

- Supports international trade policy discussions.

- Provides training in its TRAINFORTRADE Program
- Provides trade information through its Trade Points program
- Provides infrastructure support via its Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and its Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS).

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on UNCTAD's trade policy-focused technical assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
 TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
 DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND COMMODITIES
 UNCTAD
 PALAIS DES NATIONS
 CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-907-5920
 FAX: 41-22-907-0044
 EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD Web Sites:

For the Positive Agenda for Trade: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

For other technical cooperation programs: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

For general description of UNCTAD activities: <http://www.unctad.org/en/enhome>

UN Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO

The FAO is an important world forum for the discussion of, and technical cooperation with regard to food trade policy, international trade in agricultural commodities and food security and other issues. In addition to its comprehensive needs assessment of developing countries' capacity-building requirements in this area and their implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, it conducts training programs, produces training and other documentary materials, and undertakes studies relating to all aspects of agricultural commodities trade and food issues. These include:

- **Training programs** in policy analysis and development, formulation of food quality standards, safety issues and SPS requirements for risk analysis/assessment, inspection techniques/procedures, food laboratory management, production/consumption tracking, and trade statistics aggregation/utilization.
- Provision of **information on electronic access** to necessary sources of information covering interpretation, impact analyses, transition measures, Uruguay Round implementation issues, and negotiating proposals in future multilateral trade negotiations.
- Development of a **training kit** providing information for the foregoing and providing detailed information on the Uruguay Round Agriculture Agreement and the SPS and TRIPS Agreements (as they relate to trade in Agriculture).
- Sponsorship of **symposia and conferences** on the interrelationships between agriculture, food security, and economic development; the role of agricultural trade in the multilateral trading system; likely issues in forthcoming negotiations in agriculture affecting developing nations' interests; and options relating to domestic support, market access, and export competition.

(A conference on these topics is scheduled for Harare in the Spring 2000.)

More details on the FAO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on FAO's policy training program for the forthcoming WTO multilateral trade negotiations, contact the:

POLICY ASSISTANCE DIVISION
 U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)
 VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA
 00 100 ROME, ITALY
 TEL: 39-06-570-54838
 FAX: 39-06-570-55107
 EMAIL: MARIAGRAZIA.QUIETI@FAO.ORG
 OR: POLICY-TRAINING@FAO.ORG

FAO's general Web Site is: <http://www.fao.org>

Its *policy* Web Site is: <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/TCD/TCA/default.htm>

Its *policy training* Web Site: <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/TCD/Tca/ptrain.htm>
 and/or <http://www.fao.org/ag/asp/agpp/pg>

World Bank

The World Bank's World Bank Institute works with partner organizations to develop and disseminate knowledge through training programs designed to build the capacity of institutions in developing countries in the areas of economic policy. To this end, the World Bank operates three programs directly focused on capacity building: (1) its core course on "Global Integration and the New Trade Agenda"; (2) the "WTO 2000 Project"; and (3) the World Bank Agriculture Project.

Assistance available under the "Global Integration/New Trade Agenda" Project includes:

- Economics of key policy issues that arise in the regulation of trade and investment – experience of policy implementation and evaluation of potential new multilateral trade rules in these areas.
- Familiarization with computerized analytical tools to evaluate policy options, e.g., available international data sets in international trade/Investment, popular indices, measures and descriptive statistics used to analyze trends and changes in variables over time.
- Introduction to and assessment of the rules of the WTO, involving lectures and computer laboratory time to provide practical tools for commercial policy analysis.

(The World Bank will be offering this course in Cape Town, South Africa on 17-22 January 2000 covering the first two items.)

Assistance under the WTO 2000 Project includes:

- Preparation of 40 region or country-specific research papers by developing country scholars, incorporating information obtained in regional meetings.
- Regional workshops to discuss findings of research papers.

(The World Bank is scheduling workshops for West Africa in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 13-15 December 1999 with subsequent workshops planned for Eastern Africa in January-February 2000 and Southern Africa in February-March 2000)

- Preparation of a Handbook for Trade Negotiators for use in any forthcoming round of multilateral trade negotiations.

- Courses for policymakers/advisers on major international trade issues

Assistance under the World Bank Agriculture Project—focused specifically on future agricultural trade negotiations—include:

- **Quantitative research and policy analysis** of the interests of developing countries in the Agricultural issues of any new trade negotiation round
- Production of a **Handbook on Agricultural Trade Issues** for policymakers /negotiators describing likely issues and including a set of agricultural-related databases and software tools to access policy proposals.
- **Conferences/workshops** for policy advisers on topics including regional and country case studies, market access, domestic support, export subsidy commitments. Also included are such topics as sanitary/phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade, quantitative assessment of policy options, and effects of liberalization in Non-Agricultural Sectors on the agricultural sector agriculture and environmental standards, and agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights.
- **Country-specific analyses** of negotiating options and trade-offs.

(A conference on “Agriculture and the New Trade Agenda From a Development Perspective: Interests and Options in the WTO 2000 Negotiations” will be held in Washington, D.C. on 11-12 January 2000.)

More detailed information on the World Bank’s technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on the World Bank’s general technical assistance activities, contact:

PHILIP ENGLISH
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 1818 “H” STREET, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20433
 TEL: 202-473-6483
 FAX: 202-676-9810
 EMAIL: PENGLISH@WORLDBANK.ORG

For information on the World Bank Agriculture Project, contact:

MERLINDA INGCO
 WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
 TEL: 202-473-3860
 FAX: 202-522-1674
 EMAIL: MINGCO@WORLDBANK.ORG

Useful World Bank web sites are:

<http://www.worldbank.org/trade> and
http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiiep/trade/papers_2000/Wto2000-pid.pdf

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) is a joint program of the UNCTAD, WTO, and the International Trade Centre to help meet the needs of African countries to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system (MTS). JITAP objectives include: (1) enhancing national capacity to understand the WTO

agreements and address trade implications thereof; (2) strengthening of their trade and export policy formation and negotiating capabilities; and (3) improving institutional mechanisms to carry out WTO obligations. The specific forms of technical assistance available to the participating countries (and possibly others in the mid-term future) include:

- Needs assessment and program design
- regional/sub-regional/national seminars:
 - WTO multilateral trading system and the Uruguay Round agreements;
 - requirements of specific WTO/Uruguay Round agreements; and
 - financial services negotiations and resulting agreement;
- Geneva-Based Workshops for WTO Mission Staff on WTO operations and procedures and participation in policy discussions.
- Geneva-Based Briefing Sessions for WTO Mission Staff and Visiting Government Officials on WTO accession process, and current issues of WTO operations/negotiation
- Technical Services to participating countries for
 - preparation of national inputs into WTO Trade Policy Reviews
 - conduct of national surveys on the impact of WTO agreements on the economies of participating countries
 - legislative commentary/drafting for the updating of national laws/regulations for compatibility with WTO agreements' requirements
 - analysis of national trade performance
 - research/analysis of international demand for national exports
 - product-specific market research and recommendations for promising product/export markets
 - analysis of enterprise competitiveness/export fitness
- Geneva-based Training-for-Trainers course (three weeks, English and French) in Uruguay Round agreements and obligations and adaptation of national trade policies to the MTS.
- Infrastructure support, including establishment of National Reference Centers to link national trade development networks (public officials, businesspersons, and academics), Global Case Network to share best practices, and Global Electronic Discussion Forum to address issues and assist with problem solving.
- Information/documentary dissemination e.g., the Business Guide to the Uruguay Round and export management manuals.

More details on JITAP and its programs of technical assistance are in Part III of this guide.

For additional information on JITAP technical assistance, contact:

At UNCTAD:

MARCEL NAMFUA
SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISOR/
COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

At the World Trade Organization (WTO):

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5207
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

At the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

ABDELKRIM BEN FADHI
SENIOR TRADE PROMOTION ADVISOR/
CHIEF TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0359
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: BENFADHI@INTRACEN.ORG

The Web Site for JITAP is: <http://www.jitap.org>

United Nations Development Program – UNDP

The UNDP is the United Nations' largest source of assistance for development. Its Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project is designed to build capacity of sub-Saharan African countries to increase the competitiveness of their productive sectors with emphasis on global and regional trade. Basic goals and principles of the program are: (1) African countries' capacity to recognize their development needs and choices and turn them into trade policy; (2) technical assistance will be provided by those agencies that possess special experience in certain areas and which can share knowledge, materials, and skills with African countries; (3) also targets the strengthening of the functions of regional and sub-regional institutions to coordinate regional cooperation for development and support member nation initiatives in the area of trade; and (4) a comprehensive approach to assistance to include all sectors of a country according to the role they play within the national trade development/ implementation process.

Specific focuses of UNDP capacity-building assistance include:

- Preparedness for new multilateral/regional trade negotiations, including understanding of likely policy issues and better negotiating skills.
- Sensitization to the current WTO framework of rules for global trade.
- Enhancement of policy formation, analysis, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation skills.
- Harmonization of systems and procedures.
- Development of information networks.
- Achieving the linking and coordination of trade initiatives.

For the achievement of these ends, the UNDP funds or otherwise makes available the following kinds of technical assistance:

- Thematic and country studies by consultants.
- Surveys and needs assessments.
- Seminars and workshops (regional, sub-regional, national).
- Training of Trainers.
- Financing and organizing regional and sub-regional meetings.
- Organization of regional information networks.

More details on the activities of the UNDP are in Part III of this guide.

For further information on the UNDP's Capacity Building for Trade and Development activities in Africa, contact:

LEBOGANG MOTLANA
 REGIONAL PROGRAM ADVISOR
 OPERATIONS GROUP II/AFRICA
 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
 ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
 NEW YORK, NY 10017
 TEL: 212-906-6012
 FAX: 212-906-5953 OR 5974
 EMAIL: LEBOGANG.MOTLANA@UNDP.ORG

UNDP Web Site : <http://www.undp.org>

For information on the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa:

<http://www.undp.org/rba/welcome.htm>

U.S. Agency for International Development – USAID

The U.S. Agency for International Development makes available technical assistance and services to developing nations and least-developed countries, *inter alia* to promote openness to trade and investment, strengthen infrastructure, and reinforce the effectiveness and transparency of policy and regulations. USAID's Africa Bureau provides, within the Economic Growth area, two projects directly related to the multilateral trading system in general and the GATT/WTO framework of international agreements governing global trade: (a) the African Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) Project and (b) the Regional Trade and Comparative Advantage Project.

ATRIP provides selected African countries with two policy-related initiatives:

- **Public/private capacity-building for trade policy development**, in which USAID Missions in certain African countries have initiated trade-policy analysis/formation assistance to both

national ministries responsible for trade and local private sector groups with an interest in reducing trade barriers and aligning technical standards with international market requirements:

- in Uganda, the USAID Mission has initiated its “Capacity Building: Uganda Trade Policy” activity which provides assistance to the Government of Uganda and the Ugandan private sector for the development and implementation of trade policy relating to such Uruguay Round agreement areas as: customs valuation; licensing; standards and technical barriers to trade; sanitary standards; agricultural issues; and consistency of national laws with WTO requirements.
 - in Mozambique, USAID is assisting trade officials and private sector groups to enhance their capacity for trade policy development and to participate more effectively in multilateral trade negotiations, as well as assisting Mozambique to build greater support for further trade liberalization.
- **Assistance for regional trade policy development and negotiations.** USAID’s Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) in Gabarone, Botswana, is providing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its member countries with assistance to facilitate their agreement on, and phased implementation of, the SADC Trade Protocol leading to a Southern African Free Trade Area.

Additionally, USAID’s Regional Trade and Comparative Advantage Project provides a series of analytical studies addressing regional trade issues and the impact of regional trade on agricultural production, comparative advantage, and food security in Eastern and Southern Africa. Results of such analyses are provided to national policymakers to help identify the impacts of evolving trade rules and arrangements.

More details on USAID and its technical assistance programs in Africa are in Part III of this guide.

For USAID Africa Technical Assistance, contact:

DAVID P. DOD
 ATRIP PROGRAM MANAGER
 AFRICA BUREAU/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 RONALD REAGAN BUILDING, RM. 4.06-114,
 1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.,
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-4600
 TEL: 202-712-0784
 FAX: 202-216-3373
 EMAIL: DDOD@USAID.GOV

USAID/Africa Bureau Web Site: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/>.

TRADE REMEDIES: ANTI-DUMPING/COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS ON GATT ARTICLES VI

Countervailing measures are a unilateral remedy applied by a Member after an investigation by that Member and a determination that the criteria set forth in the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) are satisfied. The substantive criteria require that a Member not impose a countervailing measure unless it determines that there are subsidized imports and injury. In-depth procedural requirements regulate the conduct of countervailing investigations and the imposition and maintenance in place of countervailing measures. A failure to respect either the substantive or procedural requirements can be taken to dispute settlement and may be the basis for invalidation of the measure.

The WTO framework of rules governing anti-dumping and subsidies/countervailing duties includes GATT'94 Article VI (relating to Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties), Article XVI governing subsidies, and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Implementation of Article VI. Technical assistance with administration of Anti-Dumping/Countervailing Duties laws in conformity with GATT/WTO requirements is available from the WTO, and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO.

World Trade Organization – WTO

As the international body responsible for the administration of the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules, and the body with the longest history of involvement with Anti-Dumping and Subsidies/Countervailing Duties matters, the WTO historically has provided technical assistance in these two complex substantive trade areas, including:

- Regional and country seminars on Anti-Dumping/Countervailing Duty laws and procedures providing the expertise of personnel of its Rules Division and outside consultants.
- Review and assist in the drafting of GATT/WTO-conforming laws and procedures emphasizing the substantive and transparency/procedural requirements of the relevant GATT/WTO anti-dumping/ countervailing duty provisions.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on WTO technical assistance in the area of Anti-Dumping administration, contact:

RULES DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5112
FAX: 41-22-739-5505

and/or

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
TEL: 41-22-739-5237
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO – ITC

The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), Geneva, has produced and distributed a handbook entitled “Anti-Dumping Proceedings: Guidelines for Importers and Exporters.”

More details on the ITC are in Part III of this guide.

For information on obtaining the ITC’s handbook on Anti-Dumping, contact:

BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF
TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0276
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development - UNCTAD

UNCTAD, as part of its Positive Agenda for Trade project, has provided two workshops in Africa dealing with the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules that has included discussion of WTO trade remedies, e.g., anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

More details on UNCTAD and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on UNCTAD’s trade remedy assistance, contact:

MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES, COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GOBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD’s Web Site for the Positive Agenda for Trade:
<http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

TRANSPARENCY (ADMINISTRATIVE & REGULATORY)

Transparency of Member countries' trade regimes is one of the basic principles of the GATT, embodied in (a) the *publication* and *discoverability* requirements of GATT Article X; (b) the numerous *notification* requirements of the GATT and the Uruguay Round agreements; and (c) the operation of the WTO Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM). The goal of all of these is to contribute to the transparency of national trade regimes so that other WTO Member countries and trading partners can discover, understand, and evaluate the nature and scope of such regimes and the degree to which they adhere to the basic requirements of the GATT/WTO framework of global rules for international trade.

World Trade Organization – WTO

The WTO's TPRM involves a periodic and thorough review of nearly all aspects of a Member nation's trade policies and trade regime. The process operates on the basis of: (1) an initial report to the WTO by the government concerned detailing the legal/regulatory, policy, and procedures/practices aspects of its trade regime; (2) a subsequent intensive analysis prepared by the WTO Secretariat's Trade Policy Review Body; and (3) when these have been completed and circulated to other WTO Members, establishment of a Working Group whose members (generally major trading partners of the country reviewed) meet with trade and other officials of the government concerned and dialogue about the findings.

The WTO maintains a Trade Policy Review Division charged with the operation of the TPRM reviews. The WTO provides assistance to facilitate this process for developing countries. In this regard, the WTO offers:

- Regional and national seminars, either generally covering WTO practices and procedures which include discussion of the TPRM process and/or specifically address the requirements and procedures of the TPRM.
- Technical services to developing countries to assist in the preparation of the "memorandum of trade regime," which initiates the process.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide.

For specific information on the operation of the TPRM or the status of TRPM reviews, contact the:

TRADE POLICIES REVIEW DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5416
FAX: 41-22-739-5765

For additional information on WTO technical assistance activities, including assistance with the TPRM, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
TEL: 41-22-739-5611
FAX: 41-22-739-5776
EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

WTO MISSIONS IN GENEVA (REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION, NEGOTIATION, SUPPORT, STRUCTURE)

One of the problems confronting developing nations that establish missions or other delegations at the WTO is that their personnel frequently arrive in Geneva without significant exposure to or understanding of the nature of the multilateral trading system, the GATT/WTO framework of global rules for international trade, or the functions, operations, and procedures of the WTO. Orientation to the WTO is critical for such personnel to operate efficiently and effectively in representing the interests and concerns of their country.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The WTO is the agency providing most of the on-site Geneva technical assistance to respond to these needs. It makes available:

- 12 to 14 Week Trade Policy Courses for national trade officials and Geneva-based mission staff that are designed to widen their understanding of the multilateral trading system, the role and function of the WTO within that system, trade policy matters, and the operations and procedures of the WTO.
- Briefing Sessions in Geneva-held for visiting trade officials and Geneva mission staff to update them on current WTO issues and recent developments in the WTO work program.

More details on the WTO and its technical assistance activities are in Part III of this guide. For more information on WTO technical assistance for Geneva Mission staff, contact:

JEAN-MAURICE LEGER, DIRECTOR
 TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION
 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION – WTO
 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
 CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
 TEL: 41-22-739-5611
 FAX: 41-22-739-5776
 EMAIL: JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

Joint Integrated Program – JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) provides technical assistance to familiarize and orient developing country delegations or missions to the WTO. This Geneva-based assistance, coordinated closely with the WTO, includes:

- Workshops for Mission Staff on WTO operations and procedures
- Briefing Sessions on current issues of WTO operations/negotiations.

More details on JITAP are in Part III of this guide.

For more information on JITAP's Geneva-based assistance programs, contact:

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5207
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

Part III. Technical Assistance by Provider Organization

This section offers an overview of the range of major organizations that offer WTO-related technical assistance. Multilateral, regional and bilateral provider organizations are described, together with the programs that they deliver.

A. MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS—SINGLE PROVIDER

Eight major multilateral institutions operate as single providers of trade-related technical assistance for sub-Saharan Africa.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION – WTO

The World Trade Organization (WTO) came into existence on January 1, 1995 under one of the agreements signed at Marrakesh in 1994 as part of the Final Act that concluded the Uruguay Round. The WTO oversees the implementation of the GATT 1994 and the Uruguay Round Agreements, serves as a forum for consultation and negotiation, and facilitates the interpretation, application, and resolution of trade disputes among WTO members. The WTO currently counts 135 member countries, including 41 African nations, while another 30 countries have requested to be considered for admission. Of the WTO's 135 members, some 100 have elected the self-described status as "developing countries," 48 of which have been designated by the United Nations as "Least Developed Countries," of which 33 are located in Africa. Nearly 90 percent of overall global trade is now governed by the WTO's framework of international trade rules.

WTO's Technical Assistance

As the central point of reference for the formulation, interpretation, and understanding of global trade rules for the multilateral trading system, the WTO is significantly involved in nearly all aspects of technical cooperation and assistance to help member countries benefit from trade liberalization, with special concern for accommodating the needs of developing and Least Developed countries.

The WTO exercises flexibility to best tailor its technical cooperation activities to the needs and priorities of individual countries, groups of countries or regions. This flexibility is exercised through a variety of instruments for delivering such assistance: seminars, workshops, technical missions, briefing sessions, and trade policy training courses.

The WTO's goal is to respond specifically to the requirements of members both in the content and in the format of each activity, determined on a case-by-case basis. In particular, its 12 to 14 week trade policy courses are designed to widen participating officials' understanding of trade policy matters, the multilateral trading system, international trade law, and the functioning of the WTO. Knowledge acquired is intended to improve the effectiveness of participants' work in their national

administrations and to promote their countries' more active participation in the work of the WTO. Main course components include:

- **Lectures, presentations and discussions** on WTO agreements to acquaint participants with the economics of trade policy; formulation/implementation of trade policy; provisions of all Uruguay Round agreements and WTO legal instruments; and the structure, scope, and functioning of the WTO system.
- **Four-day workshop on negotiation techniques** to provide participants with an understanding of the psychology, process, and substance of trade negotiations and basic skills for the negotiating process via participation in simulations of general and trade-specific (tariffs, subsidies) negotiations.
- **Lectures on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding and simulation exercises** to facilitate practical understanding of how trade issues are developed, cases are prepared and disputes resolved.
- **Policy debate simulation exercises** oriented toward the preparation for and involvement in a Cabinet-level debate on tariff issues and formulation of national trade policies consistent with the requirements of the WTO.
- **Personal research projects** wherein participants develop their ideas on a particular trade policy-related topic and make short presentations of their analytical results and viewpoints gained.

Technical assistance is made available and administered through the Secretariat's Technical Cooperation and Training Division. In its provision of technical assistance to developing and least-developed countries, that Division works closely with the Secretariat's Committee on Trade and Development, the WTO body that deals directly with issues of particular interest to developing countries. In 1995 that committee established its Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries, which was specifically mandated to address issues of concern to least-developed countries. In October 1996, the Committee on Trade and Development adopted Guidelines for Technical Cooperation, which provide the basis for the WTO's technical cooperation and training activities and defines the objectives and principles for technical assistance to developing countries. These Guidelines establish that the "Objectives and Principles" for WTO technical cooperation with Developing Countries should:

- Assist in the full integration of beneficiaries into the multilateral trading System and contribute to the expansion of their trade.
- Strengthen and enhance institutional and human capacities in the public sector for an appropriate participation in the multilateral trading system
- Be demand-driven and adapted to recipient needs, in particular with respect to the best suited modes of delivery.
- Be complementary to and supportive of recipients' efforts to identify their own requirements.
- Keep a geographical balance, while giving priority to least-developed countries, in particular *African* countries, and to low-income economies.
- Cover subject matters within the competence and expertise of the WTO, in particular:
 - to improve knowledge of multilateral trade rules and WTO working procedures and negotiations;

- to assist in the implementation of commitments in the multilateral trading system and full use of its provisions, including the effective use of the dispute settlement mechanism
- Be fully and closely coordinated with other assistance provided by multi-lateral and bilateral institutions.
- Be administered by the Secretariat and reviewed by Members, in accordance with operational directives and implementation modalities to be established by the Committee on Trade and Development.

The guidelines also contain “operational directives” relating to: (1) modes of delivery; (2) long-term engagement; (3) international coordination, with (a) international and regional institutions dealing with trade-related matters and (b) bilateral development assistance in trade-related matters; and (4) management, including (a) transparency, (b) funding, and (c) monitoring and evaluation. The 15 October 1996 Guidelines for WTO Technical Cooperation are found on http://www.wto.org/eol/e/wto01/wto1_23.htm. In addition to the Guidelines, the Committee on Trade and Development has mandated the Secretariat to develop a “WTO Program for Technical Cooperation” (the “three year plan”) and a “Manual on Technical Cooperation and Training” (<http://www.wto.org/tcu/ctd14.htm>). The Secretariat also prepares the equivalent of an annual report, its “Report on Technical Cooperation and Training” that summarizes its technical assistance/training activities each year (The edition for 1997 can be found in Part V.). The WTO also recently initiated use of questionnaires for the purpose of obtaining client-developed assessments of its technical cooperation activities, with the first evaluation report to be issued in early Spring 2000.

The purpose of the three-year plan is to describe generally the proposed nature and scope of—and the funding bases for—the WTO’s technical assistance/training programs for the next three years. For example, its current three year plan (1999-2001) foresees seminars and other forms of technical assistance for the year 2000 concentrating on the following areas: (1) Agriculture and SPS Agreements; (2) Market Access Issues, including tariff schedules, the agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin, and the Integrated Data Base; (3) Agreement on Textiles/Clothing; (4) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; (5) the TRIPS Agreement; (6) the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); (7) the “Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program for Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP); (8) Trade and Environment; (9) Accessions; and (10) Dispute Settlement. In fact, because of the relatively small direct budget of the WTO for such activities and the inability to predict supplementary contributions, and because most activities are demand-driven by the needs expressed by Member countries, the vast majority of actual WTO assistance activities carried out do not typically adhere to the three-year plan. Nevertheless, the plan reflects the primary focus of the WTO on Africa in attempting to structure and to prioritize its technical cooperation and training activities.

Types of WTO Trade-related Technical Assistance

As indicated, WTO technical cooperation activities are largely demand driven. Generic types of assistance provided are determined on a case-by-case basis, but the basic types of assistance can be summarized as follows:

Seminars

Organized at a national, regional, or sub-regional level. Some are specialized—focused on a narrowly defined subject, e.g., anti-dumping, customs valuation, subsidies/countervailing duties—while others cover a broader range of facets of the multilateral trading system, e.g., functioning of the WTO or Results of the Uruguay Round.

<i>Workshops</i>	Generally focused on a particular area of trade policy. In addition to theoretical explanations, participants are asked to take an active part in <i>case studies</i> and <i>simulations</i> , e.g., trade negotiations.
<i>Technical Missions</i>	Designed to assist countries in drafting and preparing legislation and regulations, and in meeting notification requirements as well as to facilitate understanding of specific trade policy issues of concern to them.
<i>Briefing Missions</i>	Generally held for Geneva-based delegations and visiting officials to up-date them on recent developments in the WTO work program.
<i>Legal Assistance</i>	Specific technical assistance is provided in the area of dispute settlement. The services of a legal expert are available upon request to developing country Members.
<i>Training Courses</i>	Are available on the rules and procedures for settlement of disputes under the Dispute Settlement Understanding.
<i>Reference Centers</i>	Provision of computer equipment, internet connection, and training for the operation of a WTO Reference Center in each trade ministry.
<i>Information Technology</i>	A computer-based interactive tool has been developed to facilitate dissemination of information on the WTO multilateral trading system. A first package is available as a pilot on CD-ROM and through the Internet, which covers all the concepts developed in a normal 4 to 5 day seminar.

Since the creation and entry into force of the WTO, over 600 technical cooperation activities had been organized through mid-1998, with major efforts directed toward assisting African countries. In 1998 alone, the WTO carried out 299 separate technical cooperation and training activities, an increase of 31 percent over 1997, including programs for some 34 least-developed nations. Of all its technical cooperation activities carried out in 1998, for example, 140 or 47 percent were fully organized by the WTO, while 58 or 19 percent were jointly organized by the WTO and other organizations, and, in the remaining 101, the WTO was invited to participate in activities initiated and sponsored by other bodies or organizations. In 1998, in Africa alone, the WTO provided some 93 technical assistance activities.

Among the areas of substantive focus undertaken by these activities were:

- National, regional, and sub-regional seminars/workshops on the WTO-based Multilateral Trading System and on specific Uruguay Round agreements.
- Eight regional seminars on Services, focusing particularly on the Financial Services negotiations that were concluded in December 1997.
- Training courses on Dispute Settlement procedures and practices, both in Geneva and in various regions, emphasizing rules/procedures and practical simulation exercises.
- Regional seminars on Trade and Environment.
- Short trade policy courses for least-developed countries.
- Briefing sessions on a regular basis for Geneva-based missions and visiting trade officials of least-developed countries, developing countries, economies in transition and countries in the process of accession.
- Technical Missions on notification requirements.
- Technical Missions on the WTO Accession process for countries contemplating accession to the WTO.
- Technical assistance in the preparation of the Trade Policy Reviews of Developing and Least-Developed Member countries.

In addition to the above continuing forms of technical assistance, the WTO organized a "Geneva Week" for Non-Resident Delegations in November 1999. The event was intended to involve

representatives from governments without permanent representatives to the WTO in Geneva, making available to them information about the forthcoming Seattle Ministerial and the new round of multilateral trade negotiations as well as technical assistance available from the WTO and other international organizations with offices in Geneva. Among topics addressed were:

- Participation in the WTO: opportunities for small developing countries, resources available, and how to use them
- Policy Analysis for and capacity-building in developing countries: contribution of international organizations.
- WTO information and assistance in trade and development matters.
- Preparation for Seattle, including introduction to the issues, implementation and the Built-in Agenda.
- Other elements of the WTO work program and immediate decisions at Seattle.
- Practical arrangement for the Seattle meeting: How will it work? What can delegates expect?

Coordination of WTO Assistance Activities

The WTO has made concerted efforts to enhance the coordination of its technical cooperation activities with those of other international agencies. With the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), it jointly funds the activities of the International Trade Center. It cooperates on an agency-specific basis with those international bodies with a specific technical focus under the Uruguay Round agreements, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It also contemplates a significant increase in its regional activities through agreements for delivery of certain technical assistance by United Nations regional economic commissions or secretariats in partnership with and under the quality control of the WTO.

Moreover, the WTO has worked closely through “joint venture” type arrangements with a number of international agencies to provide technical assistance to developing and least-developed countries. In 1996, the WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) entered into an agreement for cooperation between them on legal-technical assistance for the benefit of developing countries with regard to implementation of the Uruguay Round TRIPS Agreement. Subsequently they launched a joint initiative in July 1998 to assist WTO Member developing countries to meet the January 1, 2000 deadline for compliance with the TRIPS Agreement. Other such initiatives include the JITAP, an effort by the WTO, UNCTAD, and the ITC and the “Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries” (IF), an effort by the WTO, World Bank, IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, and UNDP. The WTO also cooperates with World Bank Institute, whose International Trade and Development Center offers a number of trade-related training and technical assistance activities for developing countries.

Financing/Funding of WTO Technical Assistance

Technical cooperation activities are financed through the regular WTO annual budget as well as through additional, voluntary, extra-budgetary contributions from Members into the WTO Trust Fund. Only 10 to 12 percent of the WTO’s provision of technical assistance is funded directly from the WTO budget, while over 80 percent is funded by donations from Member countries, often for specifically-earmarked uses. For example, in 1997/98, donations to the WTO Trust Fund were made by the following Member countries: Hong Kong, China; Japan (for a regional seminar in Asia);

Netherlands (for countries in accession); New Zealand (for Pacific Forum Island Member countries); Norway (for sub-Saharan least developed nations); and Switzerland (for Central and Eastern European Countries).

How to Request WTO Technical Assistance

The WTO's Manual on Technical Cooperation and Training indicates how Member countries should request technical assistance. Requests for assistance should normally be made before the beginning of the year in which the activity is to be undertaken. The request for assistance should be directed to the Director, Technical Cooperation and Training Division at the WTO. Generally speaking, the process for requesting/obtaining such assistance involves five steps: (1) filing the request; (2) cooperating with the WTO to define the exact nature of the assistance requested; (3) coordinating with other international organizations who may participate or fund or otherwise be involved with the assistance; (4) delivery of the assistance; and (5) follow-up to assess the effectiveness and value of the assistance.

WTO Contact Points and Web Sites

For additional information on WTO technical assistance activities, contact:

MR. J.-M. LEGER, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
1211 GENEVA 21
SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5237
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: [MAILTO:JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG](mailto:JEAN-MAURICE.LEGER@WTO.ORG)

WTO Web Site: <http://www.wto.org>

A useful "Interactive Guide to the WTO and Developing Countries" can be downloaded from the WTO Web Site at: <http://www.wto.org/wto/download/download.htm>

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT – UNCTAD

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as a permanent intergovernmental body of the United Nations with responsibilities in the areas of trade and development. It operates as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues of international trade, finance, technology, investment, and sustainable development. It has as its goal to maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and to assist them in confronting the challenges posed by globalization and integration into the global economy on an equitable basis. It currently has 188 member States, with its Secretariat headquartered in Geneva.

UNCTAD's Technical Assistance

UNCTAD undertakes activities in the following areas: Globalization and Development Strategies; International Trade in Goods, Services, and Commodities; Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development; Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency; and special services for Least Developed, Land-Locked and Island Developing Countries. The UNCTAD promotes development in two ways: one, by supporting multilateral policy discussions designed to promote international economic cooperation for development; and the other through its technical cooperation programs that assist developing countries to overcome practical obstacles to sustainable development.

UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities may be grouped under five broad headings: (1) international trade; (2) sustainable development; (3) financial resources; (4) investment, technology and enterprise development; and (5) transportation. In the area of trade, the UNCTAD's activities include: technical assistance on issues relating to the multilateral trading system; the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA); the Trade Point Program; its Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS); and the TRAINFORTRADE program. In particular, its technical assistance relating to the multilateral trading system focuses on capacity-building in trade policy formation and implementation, trade negotiation, and the identification and treatment of current international trade-related issues, as well as assistance to countries acceding to the WTO.

UNCTAD's Goals. In its assistance programs, the UNCTAD seeks to: contribute to a better understanding of international economic problems and of their solutions; strengthen countries' negotiating capacities in international trade, finance, and investment; help countries improve systems and procedures for trade expansion; contribute to national policy development, in particular the relationship between trade, technology, finance, and investment; and promote cooperation among developing countries. These technical assistance activities are defined by: (a) their demand-driven nature; (b) their focus on human and institutional capacity-building; (c) the priority given least-developed countries; (d) their integration with its analytical work and its support for intergovernmental deliberations; (e) a degree of flexibility in the forms of technical cooperation and in the modes of delivery; and (f) cooperation and partnership with other organizations.

The Positive Agenda for Trade. In 1996, the UNCTAD IX, held in Midrand, South Africa, adopted a revised mandate for the organization and significant reforms relating to its work program, the structure of the Secretariat, its administrative and management structure, and improved coordination with other organizations. UNCTAD IX generated a "Positive Agenda for Trade" focusing particular attention on issues related to the future trade agenda, trade in goods, preferences,

services, competition policy, trade and environment, investment and trade facilitation. The Positive Agenda aims at promoting more effective preparation of developing countries for the new negotiating round likely to be initiated at the WTO Seattle Ministerial Conference in Seattle in early December. It seeks to assist developing countries prepare for the new round by helping them to understand the multilateral negotiating process; articulate their interests; support necessary economic, trade and legal analyses; and master effective negotiating techniques.

Types of UNCTAD Trade-Related Technical Assistance

Positive Agenda assistance is being provided through meetings of experts to address specific issues likely to be on the agenda of any new round that could have major implications for development, regional seminars and inter-regional workshops (for Asia, Africa, and Latin America) and training programs. This year, UNCTAD sponsored two workshop for Africa held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and Pretoria, South Africa, which focused on development of a proactive agenda for African countries in international trade negotiations, in particular, preparations for a new WTO-sponsored MTN round and negotiations between the European Union and the ACP for a successor to the Lomé IV Convention. The Pretoria exercise included a prioritization of issues of concern to African countries. These included concerns emanating from existing Uruguay Round Agreements (trade remedies, TRIMS, TRIPS, TBT, and dispute settlement) as well as new issues emanating from the Singapore Ministerial and other African meetings (Trade and Environment, Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition Policy, Transparency in Government Procurement, Trade Facilitation, and African regional integration).

UNCTAD programs included a regional conference in Sun City, South Africa for Senior Advisers to Ministers of Trade of Least-Developed Countries on "Proposals for a Comprehensive New Plan of Action in the Context of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference." That program addressed prospective proposals and formulated recommendations for such issue areas as Agriculture, SPS/TBT, Industrial Subsidies, Industrial Tariffs, Rules of Origin, Notification Obligations, Dispute Settlement, GATS and Financial Services, TRIPS, TRIMS, and Trade and Competition Policy.

The UNCTAD also sponsored a weeklong training course in Geneva in June/July 1999 for developing country trade officials on "International Economic Law, Dispute Settlement, and International Organizations." That course addressed such law-related topics as "The Law and Economics of GATT and the WTO," the "WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding," the "WTO Appellate Review System," and dispute resolution aspects of the TRIPS and TRIMS Agreements.

Coordination of UNCTAD Assistance Activities

The UNCTAD co-funds with the WTO the activities of the UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre (described following) and co-operates with both the WTO and the ITC in sponsoring and partially funding the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP). It is also one of six international agencies that sponsors the wider-ranging Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. UNCTAD also has provided technical assistance for a multiyear UNDP-financed program—"Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa" to provide support to African ambassadors to the WTO and negotiators expected to participate in the WTO Seattle Ministerial. The

activity involves the preparation and presentation by UNCTAD of a number of sub-regional seminars in Africa and workshops for African negotiators based in Geneva and Brussels.

Financing/Funding of UNCTAD Technical Assistance

As of October 1999, the UNCTAD was implementing some 300 projects for an annual delivery of assistance of approximately US \$20 million, with approximately 33 percent expended for programs in Africa. While it has an operating budget of some US\$ 50 million, funding for UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities comes mostly from extra-budgetary resources, e.g., from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Commission, development financing institutions (particularly the World Bank), foundations, and individual donor countries.

UNCTAD Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on UNCTAD's technical assistance activities, contact:

MR. MURRAY GIBBS, CHIEF
TRADE ANALYSIS AND SYSTEMIC ISSUES BRANCH
DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10,
SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MURRAY.GIBBS@UNCTAD.ORG

UNCTAD Web Sites :

UNCTAD General Description/Activities: <http://www.unctad.org>

Technical Cooperation Programs: <http://www.unctad.org/en/techcop/techcop.htm>

Positive Agenda for Trade: <http://www.unctad.org/en/posagen/whatis.htm>

UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION – FAO

Founded in 1945 and headquartered in Rome, Italy, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was designed to raise the nutritional levels and living standards of people worldwide; improve food and agricultural production and distribution; and increase the quality of life of rural people. It implements advisory and technical assistance programs and advises governments on all aspects of agrarian policy and planning. It provides the principal world forum for member nations to discuss agricultural and food-related problems; collects, analyzes, and disseminates food and agricultural information; and recommends international policy concerning world trade in food and agricultural commodities and legislation on genetic resources, food standards, and the environment.

FAO's Technical Assistance

The FAO's Technical Cooperation Department (TCD) manages its technical Cooperation Program (TCP), with overall responsibility for technical assistance including policy and investment-related assistance and the formulation and implementation of in-country, sub-regional, and regional programs and projects. The TCD undertakes activities through its headquarters staff in Rome and, increasingly, its decentralized offices in recipient countries and its field project staff.

The FAO provides technical assistance in the area of agricultural and food policy, assisting developing countries in capacity building for policy analysis and formulation and for implementation of the Uruguay Round Agriculture Agreement and Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements. For the latter two, FAO works in particular, through the adoption of Codex Alimentarius international standards and guidelines. In the area of the Agriculture Agreement, it provides technical assistance with regard to commodity market assessments, analysis of special issues and assessment of the Agreement's implication for trade and domestic food and agricultural policies. It also assists in the reformulation of national food regulations to bring them into conformity with international standards and in establishing SPS- and TBT-compliant import/export food inspection and certification programs. In the area of plant protection, the FAO provides assistance for the strengthening and updating of national quarantine programs. (See <http://www.fao.org/ur/> or <http://www.fao.org/ur/faotech.stm>.)

Types of FAO Trade-Related Technical Assistance

FAO technical cooperation includes policy advice, assistance, and training designed to strengthen national capacity for agricultural and food policy analysis and planning. It designs and organizes training programs implemented in cooperation with national or regional training institutions and produces extensive training materials. Its in-service and on-the-job training is tailored to a country's specific needs and provides training in policy analysis, sectoral analysis, investment project analysis, and decentralized development. In addition to training on technical subjects, it conducts sessions for trainers on training methods and techniques. Among its many generic types of assistance are the following:

- **Capacity-Building training programs** in:
 - policy analysis and development;
 - formulation of food standards;

- analysis of safety issues and SPS/TBT requirements, including risk analysis/assessment, inspection techniques and procedures, analytical methods, food laboratory management;
 - development of country officials' capacities for production and consumption tracking and trade statistics utilization.
- Production of **training manuals**, covering for example food inspection, food for export, and fish inspection and quality assurance.
 - **Workshops and regional conferences/seminars** on WTO-related topics for farmers' organizations, and on the Uruguay Round Agreement requirements for government officials, e.g., the relationship between plant protection and international trade.
 - **Long-Term outlook studies** on commodity trends and forecasts.
 - **Dissemination of data** (e.g., on global animal diseases status).
 - **Legislative drafting and support** for development of SPS/TBT-consistent national legislation.
 - **Assessments of agricultural/food trade policies** on world production, consumption, and prices.
 - **Review and advice on:**
 - appropriate food and forestry policies;
 - identifying consequences of changes in trade restrictions;
 - regulations covering IPR, seed production;
 - establishment/implementation of a plant variety mechanism;
 - quantitative import risk analysis/assessment;
 - disease surveillance and quantitative epidemiology;
 - SPS/TBT-related concepts of "equivalency," "risk," and "transparency."

Preparing for a new round of negotiations. The Uruguay Round brought the agricultural sector under a new set of multilateral rules and disciplines covering market access, domestic support, and export subsidies. It also launched a reform process with the long-term objectives of achieving a substantial progressive reduction in support and protection in this sector and of establishing a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system. The FAO believes developing countries need to be able to better understand the implication of the Uruguay Round agreements and their implications for their economies in order to be adequately prepared to participate effectively in any further rounds of multilateral trade negotiations for continuation of the reform process. In November 1996 the FAO was mandated to continue assisting developing countries on agricultural trade issues and, in particular, "in preparing for future multilateral trade negotiations in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry *inter alia* through studies, analysis and training." As part of its mandate to provide assistance to its member countries the FAO is intensifying its assistance to member countries to enable them to be better informed and prepared for such future negotiations.

The FAO, with the assistance of several donors, has mounted a worldwide program of workshops for developing countries to assist them to:

- Understand fully the existing WTO Agreements, the rights and obligations of countries under such agreements, and problems that have arisen in their implementation that may require further negotiations.
- Analyze new issues likely to arise in the negotiating process and the implications of proposed new international agreements on their national economies.
- Consider special issues of regional or sub-regional concern.

The training program also provides information and guidance on electronic access to sources of information covering interpretation, impact analyses, transition measures, Uruguay Round implementation issues, and negotiating proposals in the forthcoming MTN round. A training kit will be made available to all participants, covering in detail the Agriculture Agreement and the SPS/TBT Agreements as well as the TRIPS Agreement. (See: <http://www.fao.org/ur/umbrella.htm>)

The FAO held a symposium for members in September 1999 in Geneva to address the interrelationship between agriculture, economic development, and food security, on the one hand, and, on the other, international trade in general and agricultural trade in particular. Major areas discussed included (a) experience to-date with implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, including its impact on world agricultural markets and on developing countries with regard to agricultural production and trade and adapting agricultural and trade policies to WTO commitments; (b) likely issues in the forthcoming negotiations on agriculture from the point of view of developing countries, in particular their concerns to improve market access, reduce levels of trade-distorting domestic support, eliminate export subsidies, and ensure trade in products of new technologies are based on transparent, predictable, timely and science-based approval processes; and (c) options with regard to domestic support, market access, export competition.

It held another conference in October 1999 in Melbourne, Australia on "International Food Trade beyond 2000" that focused on "science-based decisions, harmonization, equivalence, and mutual recognition" in implementation of the Uruguay Round's SPS and TBT Agreements. The conference was designed to review actions taken by the FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the WTO to assist member governments to meet their SPS/TBT obligations. Overall, the FAO has organized or is planning fourteen sub-regional workshops related to the forthcoming negotiations, including four in Africa—three in Autumn 1999 (Dakar, Yaounde, and Addis Ababa) and one in the Spring 2000 (Harare).

Coordination of FAO Assistance Activities

The FAO and WTO cooperate closely in facilitating the ability of WTO Member countries to draw upon the expertise of the FAO in a number of specialized fields, while the FAO draws, as well, on the WTO's special competence in trade and trade-related issue areas. For example, the FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) provides information necessary for implementing the WTO's Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries. The FAO also provides statistics and assesses the food security situation of WTO Member countries relative to the Agriculture Agreement's provisions on export prohibitions/restrictions. The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission is recognized as one of the three competent standard-setting bodies under the WTO Sanitary Measures.

Financing/Funding of FAO Technical Assistance

The major source of financing for the FAO's Uruguay Round-related technical assistance has been the FAO's own Regular Program Budget, which includes technical cooperation program funding. Some extra-budgetary support is received from trust funds contributed by other international organizations and donor countries for workshops and symposia on the Uruguay Round agreements. But, because of financial constraints limiting its capacity to provide all technical assistance from its

Regular Program Budget, the FAO is seeking more trust fund and other support arrangements from international donors.

How to Request FAO Technical Assistance

For most technical assistance activities, contact should be made either with the FAO office in-country or with the FAO's Technical Cooperation Division in Rome, Italy.

Countries will be invited to send five representatives to the future negotiation workshops. They should be members of the country team participating in the multilateral trade negotiations or of any team providing technical advice to the government on issues related to the agricultural negotiations and their implementation.

FAO Contact Points and Web Sites

For FAO-WTO matters and general technical assistance:

MR. JAMES GREENFIELD, DIRECTOR
COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION
FAO
VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA
00 100 ROME, ITALY
TEL: 39-6-570-53856
FAX: 39-6-570-54495
EMAIL: JAMES.GREENFIELD@FAO.ORG

For the FAO Training Program in Forthcoming WTO Multilateral Negotiations:

POLICY ASSISTANCE DIVISION
FAO
VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA
00 100 ROME, ITALY
TEL: 39-06-570-54838
FAX: 39-06-570-55107
EMAIL: MARIAGRAZIA.QUIETI@FAO.ORG
OR: POLICY-TRAINING@FAO.ORG

Web-Sites:

FAO's *general* Web Site is: <http://www.fao.org>

Its *policy* Web Site is <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/TCD/Tca/default.htm>

Its *policy training* Web Sites is: <http://www.fao.org/tc/tca/ptrain.htm>

FAO and the WTO: <http://www.fao.org/ur/faowto.stm>

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

Founded in 1952 as the Customs Cooperation Council and renamed the World Customs Organization in 1994, this organization has 150 national members and is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO (a) establishes and administers international instruments for the harmonization and uniform application of customs administration systems and procedures governing movement of people, commodities, and conveyances across national borders and (b) promotes and facilitates member countries' cooperation with each other and with international organizations to enhance customs administration and combat customs fraud and movement of hazardous materials across borders.

The WCO administers the Convention of the Valuation of Goods for Customs Purposes (1953), the Convention on Nomenclature for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs (1959) and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (1987) or "HS." The HS is used by some 165 nations to classify commodities representing over 95 percent of total world trade and is used by most governments for trade policy analysis, formation, and negotiation. The WCO recently facilitated adoption of the new International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention) and, under a memorandum of understanding with the WTO, provides technical management for the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement.

WCO Technical Assistance

The WCO provides the Customs authorities of its member countries with various forms of technical assistance including regional/national seminars, training programs, technical and expert missions, fellowships, and an Internet page with material useful to such authorities (<http://www.wcoomd.org/>). The goal of such assistance is to achieve uniform interpretation and application of the Harmonized System by member countries, enhance the operation of Customs laboratories, and equip and prepare Customs administrators properly to implement the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation. For a complete overview of the WCO's training and technical assistance program see <http://www.wcoomd.org/frmpublic.htm> (click on "Human Resources Development Series").

- **Customs Reform and Modernization Program (CRM)**, the WCO's most important capacity building activity. This features a customs integrity workshop. A regional customs integrity workshop for east and southern Africa region (16 countries) will be offered in January 2000.
- **Regional/national seminars** (5 days – English/French) on:
 - amendment of the HS System and requirements for its uniform interpretation and application;
 - implementing the [WTO] Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - technical, organizational, and legal aspects of an automated customs administration;
 - development of a workplan and structure of customs operations for the control of chemicals and drugs;
 - combating commercial fraud and protection of intellectual property rights (funded by private companies cooperating with the WCO);
 - methods for dealing with money laundering and the proceeds of criminal activities;
 - profiling and risk assessment for enforcement against carriers of smuggled goods; and

- Simplification and modernization of national customs procedures.
- **Expert missions** (3-5 days – English and French) relating to:
 - customs valuation: examination of existing valuation procedures and implementation difficulties;
 - customs valuation agreement obligations/requirements;
 - measures for the effective application of the customs valuation agreement;
 - diagnosing weaknesses in customs administration fraud enforcement and recommendations for enhancement of enforcement efforts;
 - mechanisms for dealing with valuation fraud under the customs valuation agreement; and
 - WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices: operations and sharing of information for customs enforcement.
- **Technical assistance missions** (5 days - English) on:
 - simplifying customs procedures;
 - information technology and electronic commerce: the UN/EDIFACT standard and interface for exchange of business data;
 - evaluation of a country's proposed information technology system prior to putting it into operation and its conformance with internationally-agreed standards; and
 - techniques for country review of national customs administration procedures and processes.
- **Advisory missions on Rules of Origin** (2-3 days, English/French/Spanish) on the implications of the draft Harmonized Rules of Origin convention and WTO/Uruguay Round agreements.
- **Regional/national training courses** (5-10 days, English and French). Training courses are more formal and detailed than seminars and take the form of lectures supplemented by practical exercises. Subjects include:
 - development, structure, classification principles of the Harmonized System (HS);
 - application/Implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement;
 - techniques of information/intelligence gathering for Customs enforcement;
 - surveillance and controls to combat traffic in hazardous materials and endangered species;
 - middle managers' course in development of skills in customs administration human and resource management.
 - commercial fraud investigators' course – skills for developing investigative procedures, fraud analysis techniques and intelligence gathering; and
 - benefits of customs/business cooperation and use of business information for risk assessment.
- **Technical assistance services, including:**
 - study for national customs authorities of time require for release of goods and analysis and recommendations for efficient, effective operation of the country's customs clearance procedures (5 days, English and French);
 - Assistance with simplification and modernization of customs procedures and accession to the Kyoto Convention and other international arrangements (1-2 weeks, English and French);

— Assistance for combating transshipment fraud (5 days, English and French); and Training of trainers in member countries in communications skills and use of interactive and progressive training methods (10 days, English).

- **Fellowship programs**, namely fellowships at WCO/Brussels for customs middle managers to develop skills in customs administration and related human resources management with studies in specialized fields selected by Fellow and field trips to various countries' customs offices (20 days in Brussels, 10 days with a sponsoring national customs administration).
- **WCO Website**, featuring the posting of commodity classification decisions taken by the WCO Harmonized System Committee. These decisions include a complete description of goods, six digit HS classification, and the legal basis for the decision, with amendments to Explanatory Notes and Classification opinions, lists of HS Convention Contracting Parties, agenda, working documents and reports of the Committee. Includes a request form for classification advice from WCO.

Coordination of WCO Technical Assistance Activities

The WCO has agreed to a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the WTO under which it provides technical management for administration of the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement and participates with the WTO in providing seminars and conferences on Agreement provisions and implementation. And working with the WTO, it also has produced proposals for a single global set of rules to decide the origin of goods for non-preferential trade, which are expected to be agreed to in the near future.

Financing/Funding of WCO Technical Assistance

The WCO has an operating budget of approximately US\$ 16.5 million, financed principally from Member countries' annual contributions. The value of WCO technical assistance programs is around US\$ 2 million per year. Some of the WCO technical assistance activities are financed by extra-budgetary contributions from donor countries (e.g., certain training courses), while its seminars on enforcement of intellectual property rights are financed by contributions from private companies.

WCO Contact Points and Web Sites

JÁNOS NAGY
HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
B-1210 BRUSSELS,
BELGIUM
TEL: 32-2-209-9211
FAX: 32-2-209-9292
EMAIL: JANOS.NAGY@WCOOMD.ORG

WCO Web Site: <http://www.wcoomd.org>

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION - ISO

The International Organization for Standardization, established in 1947 and headquartered in Geneva, is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies, one each from 130 countries. It is a non-governmental organization founded to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services, and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological, and economic activity.

Standards within a particular industrial sector generally result from consensus agreements reached among producers, consumers and regulators in that industrial sector, who agree on specifications and criteria to be applied consistently in the choice and classification of materials, the manufacture of products, and the provision of services. Activities of the ISO result in international agreements that are published as International Standards. Goals for the establishment of international standards include: enhanced product quality and reliability at reasonable prices; improved health, safety and environmental protection; greater compatibility and inter-operability of goods and services; simplification for improved utility; reduction in the number of models and, thereby, costs; and increased distribution efficiency and ease of maintenance. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade requires members to use relevant, appropriate, and effective standards.

ISO Technical Assistance

Nearly two thirds of the members of the ISO are from developing countries. In order to respond to the special needs of those members, the ISO established its Committee on Developing Country Matters (DEVCO) in 1960. DEVCO administers the ISO Program for Developing Countries, renewed every three years, which: (a) identifies needs and requirements of developing countries in the fields of standardization and related areas (quality control, metrology, and certification, etc.) and assists such countries to define their needs and requirements; (b) recommends measures to assist them in meeting such needs; and (c) provides a forum for the discussion of all aspects of standardization and related activities in developing countries and for the exchange of experience among developed and developing countries, all in close liaison with specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations and ISO policy committees.

DEVCO provides technical assistance consisting of training seminars on the application of standards in quality assurance systems, publication of development manuals on standards-related topics, technical assistance to exporters concerning standards requirements of importing countries, workshops on consumer involvement in standardization, and conferences and symposia covering recent developments in testing and certification. Programs for the various ISO training seminars cover subjects ranging from general concepts of standardization to specialized ones, e.g., Auditing Quality Systems; Quality Management and ISO 9000; Laboratory Accreditation; Certification and Assessment of Conformity; Standards Information; Environmental Management and ISO 14000, etc. DEVCO has developed a series of manuals intended specifically for developing countries and covering selected topics directly related to standards, including:

- Establishment and management of a National Standards Body;
- Conformity assessment;
- Training of technical staff, both national and company level;

- Teaching of standardization in institutions of higher learning in Developing Countries;
- Development and organization of a Company Standards Department;
- Application of standards;
- Participation in international standardization;
- Organization and development of a National Standards Information Centre;
- Establishment and operation of a Testing Laboratory for National Standards;
- Guidelines for selecting and adopting/adapting international standards for national use; and
- Introduction to standardization and its uses in exports.

Training seminars organized and carried out on a regional basis are intended to train future trainers in standardization and related matters and to popularize and promote standardization in the countries of the participants.

Types of ISO Technical Assistance

The ISO/DEVCO's Program for Developing Countries for 1998-2000 consists of seven primary elements:

- Identification and accommodation of standardization needs in developing countries.
- Preparation and publication of development manuals.
- Training, consisting of:
 - regional training seminars
 - fellowships in standards-related institutions
 - assisting in the arrangement of placements in appropriate training institutions
 - training of technical officers for ISO technical committee secretariat functions.
- Financing member participation in ISO standards committee meetings
- Assistance to member bodies in identifying new international standardization projects in areas of economic importance and coordinating and guiding actions for launching a standards initiative
- Provision of documentation and information systems
- Preparation of standards promotional materials

Coordination of ISO Assistance Activities

In the setting of international standards, the ISO collaborates with the International Electrotechnical Commission, the International Telecommunications Union, and other international standards-related bodies. It has also recognized and cooperates with regional standardization bodies and with some 500 other organizations having an interest in international standardization. Since conclusion of the Uruguay Round Agreements on SPS and TBT, the ISO has developed a "strategic partnership" with the WTO with the common goal of promoting a free and fair global trading system and supplementing the Uruguay Round agreements with technical agreements and support activities.

Financing/Funding of ISO Technical Assistance

The ISO's DEVCO Program for Developing Countries is funded from various sources, including the Program's own relatively small budget, or from the ISO Endowment, which consists of extra-budgetary contributions from ISO members devoted solely to implementation of the Program for

Developing Countries. Money contributions are also made available by ISO members to Trust Funds used to finance specific elements of the Program. Contributions from Governments and international and national development agencies are often used to finance particular activities in one or more geographic regions chosen by donors. For example, DEVCO activities for needs assessment and for the development of standards received by developing countries are funded from its normal operating budget, while financing for seminars may come from the sponsoring agency, the ISO itself, or from host countries. Preparation and publication of development manuals usually comes from sponsoring agencies after agreement between them and the ISO on the subject matter and on qualified authors. Costs of fellowships are usually contributed by participating agencies although travel and subsistence costs are funded directly by the DEVCO.

How to Obtain ISO Technical Assistance

The Program for Developing Countries is designed essentially to be demand driven in that recipient governments or standardization agencies are able to suggest and implement their own priorities of assistance available from the ISO. When requests for assistance are received, the Secretary General or a member of his staff meets with officials of the government involved to discuss needs.

Identification of needs is also invited by circulars sent by DEVCO to ISO members in developing countries. Occasionally, ISO liaison officers in the various regions may ascertain and suggest needs to the attention of the Secretary General. The liaison officers also meet annually in Geneva to discuss regional needs. After needs are considered and assessed by DEVCO, they are again discussed with the requesting government or ISO member organization to obtain their confirmation and comments on needs, after which a responsive form of assistance is agreed upon.

ISO Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on ISO, DEVCO, and the Program for Developing countries, contact:

DR. ANWAR EL-TAWIL, DIRECTOR
PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)
1, RUE DE VAREMBE
CH-1211 GENEVA 20,
SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-749-0111
FAX: 41-22-749-0151
EMAIL: ELTAWIL@ISO.CH

ISO Web Site: <http://www.iso.ch>

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION – WIPO

Founded in 1970 and headquartered in Geneva, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) promotes the protection of intellectual property worldwide. Intellectual Property (IP) is divided into two main categories: (1) industrial property, which includes patents and other rights involving technological inventions such as trademarks and industrial designs; and (2) copyright, which includes literary, musical, and artistic works. WIPO administers the principal IP-related international treaties, including the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and administers the registration of industrial property rights thereunder. It undertakes the preparation and adaptation of treaties to accord with changes in international industrial, trade, and cultural developments and provides for arbitration and mediation of IP-related disputes between private parties.

WIPO Technical Assistance

WIPO's technical assistance activities are focused principally upon developing and least-developed countries through its Technical Cooperation for Development Program, divided in turn into two "Main Programs."

Main Program 06 is entitled Cooperation with Developing Countries, and includes three sub-programs:

- **Sub-Program 06.1:** Modernization of the Intellectual Property System and Implementation of the Uruguay Round TRIPS Agreement. This is designed first to strengthen national capacities for compliance with the TRIPS Agreement:
 - drafting of legislation prepared by WIPO upon request from developing countries (21 countries);
 - WIPO commentary on the compatibility of existing laws/regulations or draft legislation with the TRIPS Agreement or other international IP standards (for 48 countries); and
 - Expert missions to provide legal/technical assistance to improve IP-related administrative structure (137 missions).

This sub-program is also intended to improve the collection and dissemination of information on IP-related laws/regulations and legislation, specifically:

- legal texts (laws, regulations, legislation notified to WIPO) published on its intranet site (over 1,000); and responses to requests for IP-related information (480).
- **Sub-Program 06.2:** Development and Promotion of Industrial and Social Uses of IP, including wider dissemination and use of IP information by traditional users and target groups. This activity features
 - awareness and special information meetings (54 national, sub-regional, and regional);
 - state-of-the-art [Patent] searches (726 for developing countries and/or institutions).
- **Sub-Program 06.3:** Strengthening Cooperation Among Member States with Other Organizations notably to foster coordination of international cooperation for development for IP through:
 - regional and sub-regional fora (17)

— advisory Missions to provide support to sub-regional organizations for common administration of IP laws/regulations (35).

Main Program 08 focuses on human resources development and the WIPO worldwide academy, and involves four sub-programs:

- **Sub-Program 08.1:** Information Technology-based Training, Teaching, and Advisory Services, which includes two components. First, this sub-program features promotion of institutional networking and distance learning programs and support to regional capacity-building for training and public awareness, through:
 - collaboration with academic institutions and governmental IP Agencies for adaptation of existing course materials into distance learning modules
 - establishment of a studio equipped for distance learning (e.g., video-conferencing, virtual classes, electronic conferences, on-line teaching services);
 - distance learning courses on patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright, and international registration systems.
 Second, the sub-program also focuses on production of new curricula, courses, and teaching materials, including advice for curricula development, lists of reference sources and development of university/experts networks for development of region-specific training courses and materials.
- **Sub-Program 08.2:** Inter-Regional Training Courses, Fellowships and Internships, including cooperation on the coordination and planning of training through inter-regional courses and seminars (60), and study visits (161 participants). This subprogram also sponsors fellowships (22) in cooperation with national institutions, and internships for six-week training at WIPO/Geneva (13).
- **Sub-Program 08.3:** Fora on Intellectual Property for Policy Advisers to enhance national capacity to analyze and implement new policy directions for IP and economic development and related policies. Such fora include both general WIPO Academy sessions in Geneva (three with 43 participants from at least 28 countries), plus special sessions on TRIPS implementation (two with 25 participants from 12 countries) and on enforcement of IP rights (16 participants from 14 countries).
- **Sub-Program 08.4:** general Orientation and Learning Conferences to enhance national capacity in use of IP systems for promotion of innovative knowledge-based enterprises and improved competitiveness in domestic and international markets. These conferences include international and regional symposia/seminars (5 events/230 participants) and plus studies on establishment of innovation Centers in Developing Countries (2).

Most WIPO technical assistance is managed and delivered through its Cooperation for Development Sector and its four regional bureaus (including its Africa Bureau). In 1998, a special unit was established within the Cooperation for Development Sector to respond to the specific needs of the least-developed countries for each of the sub-programs of Main Program 06. Most technical assistance is delivered through bilaterally-agreed national action plans. In 1998, 68 nationally-focused action plans were concluded by WIPO, with the bulk of such assistance focused on helping developing countries prepare for implementation of the TRIPS Agreement by 01 January 2000. In 1998, a total of 119 WIPO-designed and organized events took place in the four developing regions, of which 59 were at the national level and 60 at the regional or sub-regional level. Within Main

Program 08, a total of 60 interregional courses and seminars and 161 study visits were conducted along with five WIPO Worldwide Academy sessions. Overall, WIPO's technical cooperation activities benefited nearly 11,000 persons in 122 developing countries.

WIPO's extensive Technical Cooperation for Development programs are described at length in its Annual Report for 1998, and its Draft Program and Budget for 2000-2001, which can be downloaded from WIPO's web site at <http://www.wipo.org/eng/main.htm> (click on "Publications").

Joint WIPO – WTO assistance for TRIPS and IPR protection and enforcement. WIPO and the WTO entered into an agreement on 1 January 1996, *inter alia*, for cooperation between them on legal-technical assistance and technical cooperation for the benefit of developing countries with regard to implementation of the Uruguay Round TRIPS Agreement. Under that agreement, the two agencies have undertaken joint operations such as joint symposia and workshops as well as providing WIPO experts to workshops and training courses organized by WTO and *vice versa*. They have sponsored at least one joint symposium each year. In addition, WIPO and the WTO launched a joint initiative in July 1998 to assist WTO Member developing countries to meet the 1 January 2000 deadline for compliance with the requirements of the TRIPS Agreement. A number of joint WIPO/WTO missions were undertaken in 1999 to assess TRIPS-related needs of requesting countries and several national seminars scheduled for the latter part of 1999.

Coordination of WIPO Assistance Activities

In addition to its joint activities with the WTO described above, WIPO cooperates with agencies of the United Nations system, as well as certain international financial institutions, in the formulation, coordination, and joint execution of development cooperation activities with UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, and the UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre. It cooperates as well with the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and UNDP's regional bureaus.

Financing/Funding of WIPO Technical Assistance

The Program and Budget of WIPO are determined for a two-year period. Principal sources of WIPO funding are from fees paid by private sector users of its international registration services (approximately 84 percent in 1998), contributions of member governments (some 10 percent), and sales of WIPO publications and interest earnings (6 percent). But it is expected that the Main Programs also attract extra-budgetary resources made available to WIPO by international funding agencies, individual donors, and recipient countries through cost-sharing and similar arrangements. Contributions in kind are also sought from organizations with special expertise in certain technical areas of intellectual property.

WIPO Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on WIPO technical assistance activities, contact:

MR. GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, DIRECTOR
COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT/AFRICA BUREAU
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES
1211 GENEVA 20
SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-338-9111
FAX: 41-22-338-8840
EMAIL: GEOFFREY.ONYEAMA@WIPO.INT

WIPO Web Site: <http://www.wipo.int>

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's largest source of assistance for development and the main body for coordinating its development work. It is open to all members and observers of the United Nations, and through its 132 country offices, the UNDP serves more than 170 countries and territories around the world.

In October 1997, a new Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project was approved. Its objective is to help sub-Saharan African nations increase the competitiveness of their business sectors, with emphasis on regional and global trade. In the final design of the Project, public policy-makers and private opinion leaders were consulted to ensure that actual needs and wishes of African governments, the private sector and civil society organizations were properly reflected.

UNDP's Technical Assistance

Primary focus of the Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project is to assist African nations identify and analyze their own development needs and choices, and then integrate these decisions into national trade policies. The program builds on previous and on-going efforts by UN and other multilateral agencies, such as UNCTAD, ITC, and WIPO, aimed at enabling African countries to participate more actively in global trade. Technical assistance under the Project will be organized and assigned to those UN and other international agencies that possess specialized experience in certain areas. In addition to national capacity-building programs, the Project also targets regional and sub-regional institutions to strengthen their function of (a) coordinating regional cooperation for development, and (b) supporting member nation initiatives in the area of trade.

An important aspect of the Project is the comprehensive approach to include all sectors of a country in capacity building and trade development activities, according to the role they play within the national trade development/implementation process. The Project will target governments, private entrepreneurs, civil society institutions, as well as the media.

Management of the Project is entrusted to three groups: An Advisory Board, under the Chairmanship of the OAU, provides policy guidance and receives and reviews progress reports. A Technical Committee, chaired by a nominee of the UNDP, approves work plans, budgets, and reports generated under the Project, and generally oversees the quality of project outputs. Finally, a Chief Technical Advisor will be the primary manager of the Project.

Types of UNDP Trade-Related Technical Assistance

Under the Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project, UNDP provides the funding for technical assistance and determines the UN, international or regional agency most suitable to implement specific activities. Special consideration is being placed on using local or regional institutions in Africa rather than those from developed countries. The technical assistance activities cover a wide range of categories:

- Thematic and country studies by consultants
- Sponsorship of surveys and needs assessments
- Seminars, training, and workshops on regional, sub-regional, and national levels for various groupings
- Training of trainers

- Financing and organization of regional and sub-regional meetings
- Organization of regional networks
- Support of trade promotion centers

The Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project consists of ten Modules, each with different goals depending on the nature of the technical assistance. The modules include:

- “Fast Track Module”: Support for on-going Multilateral Negotiations to provide urgent policy and technical support for African negotiators in the WTO and ACP-EU negotiations.
- Module 1: Trade Policy Formulation and Coordination to improve the content of trade policy.
- Module 2: Entrepreneurship, to enhance the appreciation of the African business communities for the international and regional trade regimes.
- Module 3: Civil Society Organizations: to enhance civil society knowledge of trade and investment regimes, build policy dialogue and create relations between civil organizations and Africa’s regional and sub-regional bodies in the area of trade and investment.
- Module 4: Training of Trainers, to build a cadre of African training experts on the multilateral trading system.
- Module 5: Trade Information Management and Networking, to build up trade information services and networks.
- Module 6: Intellectual Property, to create general awareness of intellectual property rules and issues and to train African specialists.
- Module 7: Analytical Studies, to provide inputs into the trade policy process.
- Module 8: Support for University Courses in International Trade and Development, to produce trade policy experts and academicians.
- Module 9: Special Support for Countries Seeking to Join the WTO, to help African countries in the process of accession.

The Fast Track Module is to be underway in 1999, while the other modules will become available early in 2000. A detailed description of each Module is available in Part V.

Coordination of UNDP Project Assistance Activities

The Project is designed so that UNDP will not directly implement the various modules. Rather, for each module, certain cooperating international agencies are designated to execute, implement, and cooperate within the envisaged technical assistance activity. In UNDP’s selection of implementing agencies, African organizations will have priority and African experts will lead and deliver Project services. However, where local expertise is to be created, agencies such as UNCTAD or other multilateral organizations will take the lead.

Financing/Funding of UNDP Technical Assistance

For the Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project, UNDP provides approximately US\$ 6 to \$9 million over a period of three to five years. The money will be available for the implementing agencies to conduct project activities that have been requested by the target countries.

How to Request UNDP Technical Assistance

Countries that are interested in receiving technical assistance under the Project are required to submit a proposal, including proposal budget, to UNDP's country offices. The Technical Committee of the Project, then verifies the need, relevance, timeliness, and quality of the proposed program. UNDP subsequently allocates Project funding to the requested activity.

UNDP Project Contact Points and Web Sites

For further information on the Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project:

LEBOGANG MOTLANA
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
REGIONAL PROGRAM ADVISOR
OPERATIONS GROUP I
UNDP AFRICA
ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10017
PHONE: (212) 906-6012
FAX: (212) 906-5953/5974
EMAIL: LEBOGANG.MOTLANA@UNDP.ORG

For more information on the UNDP, see: <http://www.undp.org>, or on the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa, see: <http://www.undp.org/rba/welcome.htm>

WORLD BANK INSTITUTE –WBI - AND OTHER WORLD BANK ACTIVITIES

The World Bank's World Bank Institute (WBI) features an Economic Policy for Poverty Reduction Unit, whose work focuses on the dissemination of knowledge and experience related to economic policy prescriptions and institutional frameworks most effective in reducing poverty. Working together with other teams within the World Bank and with partner organizations worldwide, the WBI has designed a variety of programs to develop and disseminate knowledge, including delivery of training on trade policy and the multilateral trading system. WBI methods include courses with partner institutions in all developing-country regions, research capacity-building and networking, dissemination workshops, video-conferences and a web site focusing on international trade and development.

World Bank Institute Technical Assistance

The WBI offers two major WTO and trade-related capacity building initiatives: a Trade and Development Program and the WTO 2000 Capacity-Building Project.

Trade and Development Program. The Economic Policy for Poverty Reduction Unit of WBI has developed an International Trade and Development Program, offering developing countries a number of training and technical assistance vehicles related to trade and the WTO. The WBI has designed a core course for Global Integration and the New Trade Agenda, aimed at strengthening the capacity of developing country government officials, the private sector, and academic institutions to formulate, analyze and implement trade and investment policies, linked to effective participation in the multilateral trading system. The International Trade and Development Program is modular and covers theory, policy options, and cross-country experience:

- The first module focuses on the **Trade Policy: Second Generation Issues** that arise in the regulation of trade and investment. This will include a summary of available cross country evidence and experience with implementation of "good" policy, as well as an evaluation of existing and potential new multilateral rules in these areas.
- The second module provides an introduction to **Practical Tools for Commercial Policy Analysis** that can be used to evaluate policy options using a PC. Two types of tools will be provided. The first revolves around an introduction to the available international data sets in the international trade and investment area, and an overview of popular indices, measures and descriptive statistics that can be used to analyze trends and changes in variables over time. The second are partial and general equilibrium methods allowing numeric modeling of commercial policy. The objective is to develop a basic understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative quantitative approaches, their limitations, and the selection of appropriate methods given institutional, resource, and data constraints.
- The third module consists of an assessment and guide to the **World Trade Organization**. It will be provided periodically as a stand-alone course, and may be used as a substitute for the second module.

This course is structured with a combination of lectures followed with computer laboratory time providing users with practical tools for commercial policy analysis. The computer sessions directly related to the lecture material include spreadsheet applications and provide an introduction to larger economic model applications. This practical application of tools will provide a better

understanding of modeling concepts explained during lectures, using "real life" examples faced by policy analysts. WBI plans to provide these teaching materials via the Internet on the WBI-WTO web site (<http://www.worldbank.org/trade>) and on CD-ROM.

WBI's Trade Program is offering the three-module core course described above in Cape Town, South Africa, January 17-22, 2000, which will cover the first two modules of the program. (For a description of the International Trade and Development Program, see: <http://www.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/COURSES.htm>)

WTO 2000 Capacity Building Project. The World Bank Institute and the Development Research Group of the World Bank, have designed a program aimed at enhancing developing country participation in the WTO 2000 negotiations. The program, currently underway, combines research, knowledge dissemination and policy advice to developing countries and has four dimensions:

- The preparation of 40 region or country specific papers by scholars in developing countries. This has been ongoing during 1999, and incorporates research obtained during and after regional meetings.
- The preparation of thematic papers based on the findings of regional meetings, which were presented at a conference in September 1999. Among other uses, information from the thematic papers will be used in the preparation of a handbook for trade negotiators, including software tools and analytic information to help generate negotiating options.
- Over the course of several regional workshops planned during 2000, the handbook for negotiators will be disseminated to policy advisers and policymakers, providing additional assistance to the developing countries over the course of the WTO 2000 negotiations.
- Finally, the project will continue through 2001, expanding its research, workshops and capacity building exercises in collaboration with local institutions in Africa and South Asia. The WTO 2000 project will culminate in a conference in Africa at end year 2001.

The WTO 2000 Capacity Building Program is preparing a number of regional workshops throughout Africa. In coordination with the Coordinated African Program of Assistance on Services (CAPAS) and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the first workshop will take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from December 13-15, 1999; subsequent workshops are planned for Eastern Africa, January-February 2000; and Southern Africa, February-March 2000. (For more information: http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/WTO_2000.html or: http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/UR_commit.html)

World Bank WTO-Related Technical Assistance

World Bank/WTO-Agriculture Project. The World Bank has designed a project that includes an integrated program of research, policy analyses and capacity building to enhance the participation of developing countries in the upcoming WTO 2000 negotiations in agriculture. In its first stages, the program will conduct quantitative research and policy analyses of the interests of developing countries in the new trade agenda and "second-generation trade issues" in agriculture under the new WTO 2000 negotiations. This work is expected to influence the agenda for the next negotiations in agriculture and to provide analytical capacity for deeper trade and agricultural liberalization in developing countries. The results of this work will be used to assist developing countries in strengthening their analytical capacity and participation in the next WTO round of multilateral trade negotiations, and to facilitate the process and implementation of trade and domestic policy reforms.

Also, the program will produce a handbook on agricultural trade issues for policymakers and negotiators, providing them with useful information in an accessible form from the principal subject areas likely to be included on the WTO 2000 agenda in agriculture, and brings together a set of databases and practical software tools that can be used to assess policy proposals. Finally, the program will disseminate and discuss the analytical results with policy advisers and key decision-makers in developing countries. This will include forums such as global conferences, regional workshops, post-ministerial research, and country specific support during the WTO 2000 negotiations. (For a more detailed description of this project, see:

<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/trade/decagridoc.nsf>)

The World Bank and the WTO have cooperated in the development of the joint World Bank/WTO Trade and Development Centre, which has produced a series of research papers for conferences under the basic title "Africa and the International Trading System." Among these are papers on: "Africa's role in Multilateral Trade Negotiations: Past and Future" and "What the WTO can do for Africa." Summaries and/or full-texts of such papers can be found at the Centre's web site: <http://www.itd.org/>.

Global Conferences. Two high-level conferences have been arranged, "Agriculture and the New Trade Agenda from a Development Perspective: Interests and Options in the WTO 2000 Negotiations," leading up to the WTO ministerial meeting in November 1999. The first was held in Geneva October 1-2, 1999, and a second conference is scheduled for January 11-12, 2000, in Washington, D.C.

At these conferences, papers have been and will be prepared, developing a series of recommendations about the interests of developing countries in the WTO 2000 round of negotiations in agriculture. The specific topics for these conferences include: regional and country case studies; market access, domestic support and export subsidy commitments; sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade issues; quantitative assessments of policy options; effects of liberalization in non-agricultural sectors on agriculture; state trading entities in agriculture; environmental standards; and intellectual property rights.

Regional Workshops. These workshops are being scheduled for late 1999 and early 2000, providing training activities including seminars for senior policymakers from developing countries, and follow-up country-specific support during the negotiations. The workshops will present major research findings and demonstrate the use of simple analytical tools and databases to evaluate the effects of specific negotiating options. The workshops will aim to motivate pro-active participation of developing countries in the next WTO round and facilitate the implementation of WTO commitments in agriculture. Additionally, these regional workshops will provide further training to policymakers on the WTO agreements and the multilateral framework. Finally, based on research during earlier stages of the project, and ongoing analysis, an edited volume on agricultural trade issues along with a handbook with databases of agricultural protection and analytical tools will be prepared and distributed. Regional workshops are currently scheduled for Africa in the spring and fall of 2000.

Post-Ministerial Research. Based on earlier study results, quantitative research and analyses will be continued in 2000 and will include the negotiating modalities and agenda identified during the WTO Ministerial to be held in November 1999. Also, at the request of developing countries, additional country-specific analyses of negotiating options and trade-offs would also be continued in 2000. This includes the preparation of country-specific action-oriented policy briefs, with synthesis of research results.

Country-Specific Support during the WTO Negotiations. During the WTO negotiations, World Bank consultants will provide advice on a country-by-country basis as requested by individual governments.

How to Request World Bank Technical Assistance

World Bank Institute. By contacting the WBI Trade and Development Program, developing countries can work with the World Bank to customize training and dissemination activities based on the above programs to meet their needs. Some technical assistance can also be provided or arranged. Increasingly, the WBI is relying on video-conferencing to provide World Bank input into conferences and workshops designed by others, either through World Bank resident missions or partner institutions. For example, site receivers for the African Virtual University have been installed in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe. There are already plans to extend this program to Tanzania, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger.

Other World Bank Projects. For information on the World Bank's WTO-Agriculture Project, contact Ms. Merlinda Ingo at the World Bank, at: (202) 473-3860 (telephone). For additional information on the World Bank's WTO 2000 Capacity Building Project, contact: Mr. J. Michael Finger at the World Bank, at: (202) 473-8087 (telephone).

World Bank Contact Points and Web Sites

For general information on WTO technical assistance activities available through the World Bank, contact:

MR. PHILIP ENGLISH
ECONOMIC POLICY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION
WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
1818 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20433
TEL: 202-473-6483, FAX: 202-676-9810
E-MAIL: P.ENGGLISH@WORLDBANK.ORG

For more information on the WTO-Agriculture Project, contact:

MS. MERLINDA INGO
WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
1818 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20433
TEL: 202-473-3860, FAX: 202-
E-MAIL: MINCO@WORLDBANK.ORG

Useful web links on this topic at the World Bank, include:

<http://www.worldbank.org/trade>

<http://www.worldbank.org/povertyandgrowth>

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW INSTITUTE – IDLI

The International Development Law Institute (IDLI) is a non-profit, public international organization with headquarters in Rome, Italy. It is governed by an Assembly of Member States and an international Board of Directors, currently chaired Dr. Ibrahim F. Shihata, Senior Vice President of the World Bank.

IDLI has 16 years experience in the design and presentation of training courses for legal professionals, including: capacity-building, especially training in legal skills, and training of trainers; programs in all aspects of private international law, including international trade and investment law; and courses in international business transactions, including the “Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Electronic Commerce.”

In 2000, the IDLI will present Rome-based courses for international development lawyers and in the legal and regulatory aspects of electronic commerce. On a regional basis, It will present its International Trade Lawyers Course in Cairo, Egypt in June and in Australia in November.

The IDLI’s International Trade lawyers Course is a three week course focusing on a range of topics relevant to the region in which they are presented. It is designed to assist legal advisers and lawyers from developing countries to understand and implement WTO agreements and to meet the challenges of global trade liberalization and regional economic integration. It includes discussion of:

- Nature of the WTO, its Organizational Framework and the Implementation of WTO Principles and Standards.
- Trade in Goods, including WTO Uruguay Round agreements on:
 - Agriculture,
 - Textiles/Clothing
 - Standards (SPS/TBT)
 - Rules of Origin
 - Customs Valuation
 - Import Licensing
 - TRIPS
 - TRIMS
- Trade in Services
- Emerging WTO issues involving:
- Electronic Commerce
- Trade in Information Technology
- Aspects of Trade Facilitation

The IDLI’s course for international trade lawyers is intended for lawyers and legal advisers to Ministries of Trade, Economy, Finance and others as well as other government and private attorneys who have responsibilities for international trade law and policy. The course’s goals are to:

- Enable participants to identify main issues of law and policy in global trade liberalization and regional economic integration;
- Understand the main legal and policy implications of the WTO agreements that may require legislation in their country to ensure the conformity of its legal/regulatory regime with the requirements of the GATT/WTO framework of global trade rules.

- Understand and apply the role of domestic, regional and international fora (including the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding) for enforcing trade rules and rights; and
- Describe the evolving processes of regional economic integration and their relationship to existing multilateral arrangements.

IDLI training is participatory and practical, building on the participants' experience through interactive learning, drafting exercises, role-playing, case studies, simulated negotiations, and audiovisual presentations as well as traditional lectures and group discussions. Participants receive course handbooks containing the text of WTO agreements, relevant legislation, and other legal documents or policy papers.

Funding of the IDLI is from international organizations, individual donor countries, and international foundations. Participants must be graduate lawyers licensed to practice in a jurisdiction. Candidates should submit a completed application form to the IDLI Admissions and Evaluation Office. The IDLI Admissions Committee takes into consideration the following factors when reviewing an application: (a) current job responsibilities and nature of legal practice; (b) academic background; and (c) professional experience. Upon admission, candidates will be requested to identify a source of funding to cover all costs of their participation. If they have not already secured financing at the time of their application, they must submit their funding requests (normally through their ministry offices or employers) to local representatives of international donor agencies in accordance with local procedures. A limited number of IDLI-financed fellowships are available each year.

For further information on IDLI courses and requirements, contact:

ANNET BLANK
PROGRAM LEGAL COUNSEL
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW INSTITUTE (IDLI)
VIA DE SAN SEBASTIANELLO
16-00187 ROME, ITALY
TEL: 39-06-697-9261
FAX: 39-06-678-1946
EMAIL: ABLANK@IDLI.ORG

IDLI Web Site : <http://www.idli.org>

B. REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS – SINGLE PROVIDER

The European Union (EU) and the Organization of African Unity/African Economic Community (OAU/AEC) directly provide WTO-related technical assistance to sub-Saharan Africa.

EUROPEAN UNION – EU

The European Union (EU) and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) have a history of trade and development aid ties that goes back to the origins of the Community. The European Commission and the ACP countries have agreed to a number of Conventions that have provided the framework for trade and development ties between the two regions. Since 1975, the framework has been the Lomé Convention, continuously renewed and adapted to different priorities in 5-year intervals. One of the objectives of the Lomé Convention is the social and economic development of the ACP States and enhanced cooperation between the EU and the ACP. The present Convention expires in February 2000 and negotiations between the EU and ACP countries are now underway to lay a new framework for future trade and development activities.

Since the fourth Lomé Convention, the EU reports that particular priority has been given to the development of trade with the ACP countries in order to facilitate their economic growth and integration “into the world economy in a harmonious and gradual manner.” Additionally, the European Commission has suggested putting a special focus on active integration of ACP countries into the multilateral trading system in the next Convention and on providing more funds for specific capacity-building measures that would increase the ACP’s ability to participate in WTO-related work.

EU Technical Assistance

Technical assistance to ACP countries on WTO-related matters takes place in the framework of the EU’s approach to Capacity Building and Coherence in Global Economic Policy-making, tabled by the EU in Geneva in August 1999 as part of the process of preparations for the WTO 1999 Ministerial Conference. The EU suggested the development and introduction by the Seattle Ministerial Declaration of a trade-related technical assistance program built along three axes:

- Better understanding and use of WTO rules, to enable Developing Countries to exploit to a maximum the opportunities offered by the multilateral trading system, such as the dispute settlement area.
- Capacity building in developing countries to adopt and implement domestic laws and regulations in order to fulfil their WTO obligations, (e.g., in the field of TRIPS).
- Enhancement of the ability to trade for given sectors, countries, or regions through supply-side reforms, technical training and capacity building.

The EU offers a number of technical assistance programs with particular focus on trade-related issues. As mentioned above, WTO-specific activities are only now moving into the center of technical assistance activities, following an increased awareness that the ACP countries require

further capacity building before being able to benefit from the WTO and to fully participate in future WTO negotiations.¹

Further descriptions of the Commission's technical assistance projects can be found on the EU's Web Site, at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/evaluation/index.htm>

EU Types of Trade-Related Technical Assistance

The EU offers a wide range of technical assistance activities depending on the recipient country's request. The EU provides training for public officials or private sector representatives, provision of personnel or experts on WTO matters, participation in seminars, or funds aiming at greater ACP participation in WTO-related activities, for example by financing their permanent presence in Geneva through an ACP-Secretariat office. Other assistance and aid projects that the Commission funds may include participation of ACP representatives in WTO proceedings, internships of young civil servants in Geneva, and research or surveys on national legislation that might need to be changed to comply with WTO rights and obligations.

Coordination of EU Assistance Activities

The EU recognizes the need to coordinate technical assistance activities with other donors and multilateral or bilateral agencies in order to maximize the effect of these activities. EU officials report that they strive to maintain close contacts between European Delegations and the governments of the ACP countries, to reduce overlap and contradiction in technical assistance programs offered by the EU and other donors.

Financing/Funding of Technical Assistance

Aid from the EU—for trade-related and other technical assistance—is distributed under the European Development Fund (EDF) that is being agreed upon during each of the Conventions. The EDF consists of so-called envelopes that determine certain amounts of money to be made available for development assistance projects for each of the ACP countries and for the ACP in general during the five-year period of the Convention. The EU and ACP representatives determine the focus of the upcoming Convention period through so-called indicative programs for national and regional goals, and those that affect all of the ACP countries. Once an agreement has been reached for the Convention

¹ One example is a project in Swaziland, which started in April 1999 and is aimed at strengthening government capabilities in external trade relations and promoting the private sector. The overall objective of the project is to build the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's capacity in the area of trade policy, trade promotion and regional integration. The anticipated results at the end of the project in 2002 include the creation of an International Trade Department in the Ministry that will manage international trade issues and policy development, and the strengthening of Swaziland's capacity to participate effectively in regional integration groupings, such as SADC, COMESA, and SACU. The Swaziland project includes a number of different types of technical assistance, including a long-term advisor to assist in trade negotiations and to conduct training to build capacity of local officials. Further, the program will fund travel of Swaziland government officials to meetings outside the region, as well as briefings and workshops for parliamentarians, business persons, trade unionists, journalists, consumer groups, and academics to publicize and disseminate research findings.

period, countries and regions can submit proposals to the Commission to ask for money within their five-year budget and within their indicative programs.

How to Request EU Technical Assistance

Technical assistance programs from the EU are demand-driven, which means that countries requesting support usually approach the European Delegations in their respective capitals to indicate the need for technical assistance. The National Authorization Officer in the prospective country—generally the Minister of Planning in ACP countries—submits a proposal for technical assistance to the European Delegation, which in turn conveys the proposal to the European Commission in Brussels, where an evaluation process starts. The Commission appraises the need for the suggested technical assistance program, verifies its conformity with the prospective recipient country's WTO-related or other National Indicative Program, and approves the release of necessary funds. The process to approve technical assistance projects might take up to nine months from the time a National Authorization Officer submits a proposal to the time when the technical assistance activity is started.

For larger projects, e.g., regional programs or those that benefit all ACP countries, the European Commission might proactively propose certain projects to representatives of the ACP countries, and conduct feasibility studies to determine areas where technical assistance is required. The rationale for this more active approach is that it often takes longer to identify areas of technical assistance priorities if the whole ACP group is expected to benefit from the program.

EU Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on the European Union's WTO-related technical assistance activities, contact

MR. INGO FEUSTEL
 CHEF DE DIVISION
 TRADE POLICY
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT
 (EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
 FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH AFRICA,
 THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE PACIFIC;
 LOMÉ CONVENTION)
 PHONE: +32-2-299-2528
 FAX: +32-2-299-4895
 EMAIL: INGO.FEUSTEL@DG8.CEC.BE

European Commission Web Site: <http://europa.eu.int>

Press releases that provide a daily view of the activities of the European Union as presented by the Institutions in their press releases can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/pressrelease_en.htm

Documents describing and analyzing EU-ACP relations can be found at <http://www.oneworld.org/ecdpm/en/pubs/acplist.htm>

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY/AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY – OAU/AEC

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded in 1963. Its purpose has been to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States, to co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence.

On June 3, 1991, the Heads of Member States and governments of the OAU adopted a new Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC). The AEC promotes inter-State cooperation, harmonization of policies and integration of programs, harmonious development of economic activities among Member States, and coordination and harmonization of policies among existing and future economic communities in order to foster the gradual establishment of the African Economic Community. The Community is to be created through a series six stages over a transitional period of thirty-four years. The first stage, which called for the strengthening of existing economic communities and the formation of new economic communities within the OAU's reforms—ended in May 1999. In the area of trade, the AEC Treaty calls for the diversification of Africa's markets, marketing of Community products, participation in trade and investment for African commodities, promotion of better terms of trade for African commodities, improved market access for Community products, and participation of the member states as a Group in international negotiations within the framework of WTO, UNCTAD, and other trade-related negotiating fora.

OAU/AEC's Technical Assistance

In addition to technical assistance that the OAU provides in the form of technical issues and policy papers, the OAU/AEC also carries out technical assistance activities in collaboration with United Nations (UN) Agencies and through its own Policy Analysis Support Unit.

Collaboration with UN agencies. As mentioned, the UNDP has launched a new Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa Project. Under this project the OAU/AEC is expected to coordinate the Project Advisory Board, composed of the OAU/AEC Assistant Secretary General for Regional Cooperation and Integration as Chairman, plus representatives of AfDB, UNECA, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, UNDP and private sector organizations as members. The OAU/AEC is also a member of the Technical Committee of this project.

In addition to coordination and advisory roles, the OAU/AEC will also undertake technical assistance projects within the new project. For example, in the Fast Track Module, the project provides for a number of seminars and workshops for Brussels- and Geneva-based Africa trade negotiators. Additionally, thematic and country studies will be prepared by a panel of experts from the OAU/AEC, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the African Development Bank, to highlight domestic and export trade issues for African countries. These papers will be used as training materials during the seminars and background documentation to enhance the capacity of African negotiators.

In other modules, the OAU/AEC will participate in conducting analytical studies, and provide technical support for trade policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and coordination. Further, the OAU/AEC could provide additional funds in support of capacity building and technical assistance seminars, workshops, and consulting activities from its regular budget or from its Policy Analysis Support Unit.

Furthermore, the OAU/AEC General Secretariat maintains a permanent observer mission in Geneva where the Africa Group regularly meets. The Secretariat staff provides WTO-related technical backstopping to the African Ambassadors and their technical negotiators. Once the OAU/AEC secures permanent observer status with the WTO, the organization plans to be in a better position to provide the required WTO and trade-related technical assistance to Member States.

Policy Analysis Support Unit under the OAU/AEC. The Policy Analysis Support Unit (PASU) was established in March 1993 at the Headquarters of the OAU/AEC under a grant agreement between the OAU and the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). PASU was established with two main objectives:

- To strengthen OAU/AEC's research capability through training of its staff in the Unit's own Economic Development and Cooperation Department (EDECO) and through direct contribution to research efforts by experts; and
- To carry out research on economic policies and development in Africa, particularly with regard to the implementation of the African Economic Community.

In preparation for new round negotiations under the WTO and in order to assist African countries to become WTO-rules compliant, the OAU/AEC Assembly of Heads of State and Government decided in 1998 to establish an OAU/AEC Advisory Panel under PASU to provide technical assistance to African negotiators. One of the objectives of PASU's technical assistance program is to help African countries to participate effectively in global trade negotiations that have become a major focus of deliberations within the OAU/AEC policy organs. Within the framework of its 1998 and 1999 Work Programs, PASU provided some technical and financial assistance to the OAU/AEC Advisory Panel of Experts on ACP-EU negotiations. It plans to extend the same support in 1999/2000 and beyond to those African countries that will participate in WTO and trade-related negotiations. A Workshop on WTO for training and information dissemination is planned for 1999, in order to enhance the knowledge of OAU/AEC, Africa's regional economic communities, and African national trade officials on issues under negotiations at the WTO. The workshop will be implemented in collaboration with the WTO, the regional economic communities, the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat, and the Panel of African Experts.

Types of OAU/AEC Technical Assistance

OAU/AEC technical assistance program includes seminars and workshops for Brussels- and Geneva-based African trade negotiators, studies and research papers related to trade interests of its member states, provision of consulting services through PASU, and expert advisory panels for trade-related negotiations. Apart from these activities, OAU/AEC can provide further, country-specific assistance to Member States, which contact the Secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, or the African Regional Economic Community.

OAU/AEC Contact Points and Web Sites

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL
AMBASSADOR VIJAY MAKHAN
DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY/AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
P.O. Box 3243
ADDIS ABABA
ETHIOPIA
PHONE: 251-1-51-7700
FAX: 251-1-51-2622
EMAIL: VMAKHAN@HOTMAIL.COM, OR E.B.AUPAN@TELECOM.NET.ET

OAU/AEC Web Site: <http://www.oau-oua.org>

Other useful links:

<http://www.sadc.int>

<http://www.comesa.int>

<http://www.afdb.org/>

C. MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS – JOINT PROVIDERS

Multilateral institutions provide four major joint trade-related programs to sub-Saharan African countries: International Trade Centre, JITAP, Integrated Framework and CAPAS.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE – ITC/UNCTAD/WTO

Established in 1964 and headquartered in Geneva, the International Trade Centre is a technical cooperation organization whose core program is jointly funded by the U.N., the WTO, and certain trust funds. ITC's mission is to support developing and transition economies, and particularly their business sectors, in their efforts to realize their potential for expanding international trade with the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable economic development. It primarily deals with the operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, bringing to bear the business perspective in contributing to the design and implementation of trade promotion strategies and coordination arrangements. In the area of the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade, it works principally with business enterprises to improve their ability to meet the new obligations and take full advantage of the trade expansion possibilities of the Uruguay Round. To this end, and in close cooperation with the WTO, it disseminates information and advice on the business implications of the GATT'94 and the Uruguay Round agreements; carries out human resource development activities; undertakes country-specific assessments of trade performance and prospects including technical cooperation needs; and assists in the development of national capacities for providing trade support services to enterprises.

The ITC's six "core services" are: (1) product and market development; (2) development of trade support services; (3) trade information; (4) human resource development and capacity building; (5) international purchasing and supply management; and (6) needs assessment and program design. For its parent bodies, UNCTAD and the WTO, its mission is to complement the research, policy, and normative activities thereof by dealing with issues related to the provision of information, the development of skills, and the setting up of trade support services needed in the business sector for the development and enhancement of their competitive-ness in global trade. In its approach to the delivery of technical assistance, it aims to ensure a balance between enterprise-specific objectives and trade development and economic development objectives at the sectoral, national, and regional level. (The Annual Report for 1998 is at: <http://www.intracen.org/itcinfo/jag/jag1999/index.htm>)

ITC Technical Assistance Available

The technical divisions of the ITC channel their country-specific technical assistance through its Division of Technical Cooperation Coordination. The DTCC's mandate is to understand and articulate the needs of client developing countries, identify local organizations that can act as partners for the ITC's national capacity building programs, bring the ITC's expertise to bear at the country level, and help ensure that its applied research and program development processes are fully directed at responding to the evolving trade development needs of particular countries. In formulating the program response, the DTCC considers adaptation of ITC technical assistance products on the basis of a needs analysis and available financing. The ITC is developing diagnostic tools for the design, testing, and application of needs analysis to help client countries identify and prioritize their trade development needs.

The ITC gives priority to assisting lower-income partner countries to understand and benefit from the evolving multilateral trading system and, in order to implement its strong focus on least-developed and other low-income African countries, established in 1998 a special Office for LDCs and Africa to plan, coordinate, and implement its activities in those countries.

Among the ITC's major GATT/WTO-related major technical assistance activities are programs dealing with:

- **Business and the WTO Agreements:** The World Trade Net implements the ITC's Capacity Development Initiative designed to create and to provide ongoing technical and operational support to national networks concerned with the business implications of the GATT/WTO and the Uruguay Round agreements and the evolving multilateral trading system—through regular field consultations, workshops, and expanded technical support (reference and training materials). Also designed to equip the business community to receive timely information on emerging issues for negotiation so as to dialogue with trade negotiators and advise their opinions on negotiating positions.
- **Export quality and packaging management:** designed to enable small and mid-sized exporting enterprises to understand and meet product quality and packaging requirements (health, safety, environmental) based on international standards and, in particular, the Uruguay Round SPS and TBT Agreements and ISO standards.
- **Trade in services:** developed to pursue enhancement of the ability of developing countries to nurture, support, and sustain export growth in their Services sector by, *inter alia*, ensuring that service firms understand and are able to take advantage of the export opportunities available under the Uruguay Round's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Includes publication of a Business Guide to GATS.
- **Public sector procurement:** designed to assist developing countries to upgrade national and international public sector procurement systems and practices, including legal, regulatory, and administrative aspects in order to enhance the transparency and cost-effectiveness thereof, and to assist them in understanding the potential benefits of acceding to the Agreement on Government Procurement.
- **Background materials on the Uruguay Round and the Multilateral Trading System:** The ITC has developed and provides extensive documentary background materials on various aspects of the Uruguay Round agreements and the multilateral trading system, e.g., for example:
 - Business Guide to the Uruguay Round
 - Manager's Guide to the World Trading System
 - TradeMaps—Opportunities and Challenges of the New Multilateral Trading System
 - Anti-Dumping Proceedings: Guidelines for Importers and Exporters
 - Agreements on [TBT and SPS]
 - Harmonizing Packaging Practice for Global Markets
 - Successful Services Exporting – A Handbook
 - The Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: An Overview
 - The Changing Pattern of International Trade in Textiles and Clothing –Implications of the Introduction of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on the Developing Countries' Producing/ Exporting Textiles and Clothing
 - Agreement on Agriculture
 - Trade in Information Technology products and the WTO agreements

— Implications of the WTO agreements for international trade in Environmental industries

For information on the ITC's Uruguay Round Follow-up Program, see:

<http://www.intracen.org/itc/services/hrds/urp/index.htm>

Types of ITC WTO-related Technical Assistance

ITC delivers technical assistance through a number of generic forms thereof, including:

- Background Materials
- Business Guide Seminars on Uruguay Round Agreements and their implications
- Virtual (Internet) Conferences on GATT/WTO topics
- Technical Workshops on implications of selected Uruguay Round
- Agreements (e.g., ATC, SPS/TBT etc.)
- CD-ROM: Trade Information Tool Kit
- Networks for Enhancing Business Performance in the New Multilateral Trading System
- Needs assessment and project formulation missions
- Advisory services on GATT/WTO/Uruguay Round Issues
- Product and market strategic options
- Training of Trainers and business counselors for Enterprise Level Trade Training and Advice

These and other technical assistance activities are brought together in country-specific programs, which depend on *ad-hoc* financing.

Coordination of ITC Assistance Activities

The ITC pursues an integrated and comprehensive approach to trade development, seeking to avoid duplication, maximize synergy, encouraging best concepts and ideas, and increasing cost-effectiveness by cooperating, whenever appropriate, with other competent agencies inside and outside the United Nations system. It provides other agencies specialized support in areas in which it is acknowledged as having a comparative advantage, while facilitating the technical cooperation programs of other organizations. Technical interaction with UNCTAD (notably TRAINFORTRADE and the Trade Point Program) and the WTO's Technical Cooperation Division are built into the ITC's forward planning for 1999-2001. Specifically, the ITC has undertaken a joint venture with UNCTAD and the WTO, the "Joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries" underway in eight African countries. The ITC also houses the Administrative Unit of the "Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries," serving the Inter-Agency Working Group of six institutions (WTO, World Bank, IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, and UNDP).

Financing/Funding of ITC Technical Assistance

The ITC is jointly funded by the U.N. and the WTO. Its Headquarters-based Core Programs are funded out of its regular budget and some bilateral trust funds while activities to meet the specific needs of individual countries are funded in proportion to the extra-budgetary resources made available to it from the UNDP and other organizations. Its JITAP activities are supported from funds available from the Common Trust Fund for the JITAP.

ITC Contact Points and Web Sites

For Information Services, contact:

MR. BERNARD ANCEL, CHIEF,
TRADE INFORMATION SECTION
DIVISION OF PRODUCT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0276
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: ANCEL@INTRACEN.ORG

For Needs Assessment and Program Design, contact:

MR. MARTIN DAGATA, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION COORDINATION
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
TEL: 41-22-730-0299
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: DAGATA@INTRACEN.ORG

For World Tr@de Net, contact:

MS. SABINE MEITZEL
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, WORLD TR@DE NET
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
TEL: 41-22-730-0111
FAX: 41-22-733-4439
EMAIL: MEITZEL@INTRACEN.ORG

ITC UNCTAD/WTO Web Site: <http://www.intracen.org>

JOINT INTEGRATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SELECTED LEAST-DEVELOPED AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES –JITAP

The Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) emerged from the UNCTAD IX Conference in Midrand, South Africa in May 1996, when the heads of the UNCTAD, WTO, and the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) announced their intent to develop a joint program to help meet the needs of African countries to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system (MTS) and improve their export competitiveness. In March 1998, the three organizations established a Common Trust Fund to support the JITAP and to receive funding support from the founding agencies and from other national donors. JITAP is the first program to have been established and administered jointly by the three founding organizations to deliver technical assistance to a number of countries.

Initially, eight African countries were selected to participate in the JITAP: four least-developed countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda, and four other developing countries—Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, and Tunisia. The seven sub-Saharan countries were selected to fit into two sub-regional groupings (East and West Africa). Based upon experience with the program, JITAP's extension to other African and least-developed countries is envisioned in the medium-term future.

The program objectives and activities of the JITAP include: (1) enhancing national capacity to understand the WTO agreements and address the trade implications thereof; (2) strengthening of their trade and export policy formation and negotiating capabilities; (3) improving institutional mechanisms to carry out WTO agreement obligations; (4) developing supply-side response to MTS opportunities; and (5) enhancing their access to export business services and performance tools.

JITAP Technical Assistance

The founding agencies have developed a combination of technical assistance activities directed toward human development and institutional capacity building, particularly through the use of local institutions and trainers. The JITAP program operates on the basis of: (a) capacity building; (b) joint participation of the founding agencies (UNCTAD, WTO, ITC); (c) generic programs to address key common needs; (d) program elements organized in 15 clusters; (e) simultaneous implementation; and (f) ongoing communication and discussion facility/networking.

JITAP's fifteen technical assistance "clusters" are:

- Integrated program management and headquarters-based technical inputs;
- Support to Multilateral Trading System (MTS) institutions;
- Assistance to Customs;
- Legal adjustment and the business environment;
- Establish/operation of Reference Centers;
- Trade information management;
- Networking program partners and national networks of trainers, presenters, and experts;
- Human resource development and improvement of Multilateral Trading System (MTS) knowledge;
- Impact of Multilateral Trading System (MTS) on the national economy/external trade and trade policy adaptation;

- Human resource development in the formulation of national/sectoral export strategies;
- Assessment of export and market potential;
- Formulation of sectoral/product-specific strategies;
- Trade Secrets: The [ITC] Export Answer Book for SMEs;
- Export financing; and
- Quality management/export packaging in the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) context.

The 15 clusters are allocated within five families of activities, each with an assignment of basic agency responsibilities, e.g., (1) knowledge/implications of the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) and understanding of WTO-related issues [UNCTAD, WTO]; (2) impacts of the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) on national economies and strategies to benefit from MTS trading opportunities [UNCTAD, ITC]; (3) adjustment to and implementation of WTO obligations through reform/revision of trade laws and regulations [mainly WTO]; (4) enterprise readiness through trade information, quality management, export finance and other strengthening programs [ITC]; and (5) support and cooperation through establishment of the Reference Centers for business, academic, and official use and nurturing a network of trainers and experts on the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) [all agencies]. Generally, in the joint training approach adopted by the founding agencies for Multilateral Trading System (MTS) matters, the WTO explains the rules stemming from the Uruguay Round, UNCTAD addresses policy implications, and the ITC examines business aspects and opportunities. For an overview of the 15 clusters, see <http://192.91.247.112/jitap/english/cluster.mv?+>.

The specific forms of JITAP trade-related technical assistance available to the participating countries (and possibly others in the mid-term future) include:

- Needs assessment and program design
 - Regional/sub-regional/national seminars on:
 - WTO multilateral trading system and the Uruguay Round agreements;
 - requirements of specific WTO/Uruguay Round agreements;
 - financial services negotiations and resulting agreement; and
 - trade and the environment.
 - Geneva-based workshops for WTO Mission Staff on:
 - WTO operations and procedures; and
 - trade and the environment.
 - Geneva-based briefing sessions for WTO Mission Staff and visiting government officials on:
 - WTO accession process
 - current issues of WTO operations/negotiations.
 - Technical missions to participating countries on:
 - WTO notification requirements
 - WTO accession procedures/issues
 - **Technical services** to participating countries for
 - Preparation of national inputs into WTO Trade Policy Reviews
 - conduct of national surveys on the impact of WTO agreements on the economies of participating countries
 - legislative commentary/drafting for the updating of national laws/regulations for compatibility with WTO agreements' requirements
 - analysis of national trade performance

- research/analysis of international demand for national exports
- product-specific market research and recommendations for promising product/export markets
- analysis of enterprise competitiveness/export fitness
- Geneva-based **training-for-trainers course** (three weeks, English and French) in
 - Uruguay Round agreements and obligations;
 - adaptation of national trade policies to the MTS.
- Infrastructural support e.g., establishment of
 - **National Reference Centers** to link national trade development networks (public officials, businesspersons, and academics)
 - Global Case Network to share best practices
 - Global Electronic Discussion Forum to address issues and assist with problem-solving.
- Information/documentary dissemination e.g.,
 - Business Guide to the Uruguay Round
 - Export management manuals

Financing/Funding of JITAP Technical Assistance

A Common Trust Fund administered by the ITC was established by the founding agencies in 1998. It comprises two "windows," Window I for un-earmarked program development and generic activities and Window II for specific country projects. At least 13 countries have contributed to the Common Fund a total of US\$ 7.8 million as of the end of 1998, of which US\$6.9 million has been allocated to Window II.

How to Request JITAP Technical Assistance

JITAP is managed in Geneva by a Steering Group comprised of senior representatives from UNCTAD, WTO, and the ITC. Day-to-day management is provided by focal point officers at the three agencies. An integrated JITAP team from the UNCTAD, WTO, and ITC works with representatives of the recipient country in assessing country needs and designing a country-specific technical assistance program. Implementation plans are then adopted and a national facilitator contracted. A national focal point is identified in the ministry responsible for international trade. The country program is, in turn, managed by a national steering committee. Two regional JITAP coordinators, one for East Africa and one for West Africa, coordinate technical inputs and country implementation and facilitate interaction between the participating country and the Geneva agencies.

JITAP Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on JITAP technical assistance, contact:

At UNCTAD:

MARCEL NAMFUA
SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISOR/
COORDINATOR FOR THE JITAP
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

At the World Trade Organization (WTO):

JEAN-MARC FORTIN
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING DIVISION
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
154 RUE DE LAUSANNE,
CH-1211 GENEVA 21, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-739-5207
FAX: 41-22-739-5764
EMAIL: JEAN-MARC.FORTIN@WTO.ORG

At the International Trade Centre (ITC) UNCTAD/WTO

ABDELKRIM BEN FADHI
SENIOR TRADE PROMOTION ADVISOR/
CHIEF TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR JITAP
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0359
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: BENFADHI@INTRACEN.ORG

JITAP Web Site: <http://www.jitap.org>

INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK – IF

At the WTO's first Ministerial Conference in Singapore in December 1996, WTO Member nations adopted a "Comprehensive and Integrated Plan of Action for Least-Developed Countries" (LDCs). In October 1997, the concept was discussed by the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for LDCs' Trade Development that included the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, World Bank, IMF, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The six agencies represented endorsed the idea of an Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to LDCs designed to assist them in benefiting from the multilateral trading system (MTS) by enhancing their trade opportunities, helping them benefit from an export-led development strategy, overcome supply side constraints thereto, and implement the GATT/WTO framework of rules for global trade. Activities under the IF are carried out under the supervision of the Inter-Agency Working Group of the six founding agencies, chaired by the WTO. Its daily activities and program coordination are handled by an administrative unit located in the ITC.

Integrated Framework Technical Assistance

The IF is designed to be demand-driven by participating countries and coordinated among its donor agencies. It provides assistance based on: (1) a country needs assessment carried out by the participating country (using a technical assistance needs identification questionnaire provided by the donors); (2) an integrated response prepared by the donor agencies in consultation with the participating country; (3) a "round table" meeting between officials of the participating country and representatives of the six donor agencies (as well as any other development partners chosen by the LDC) at which a Multi-Year Country Program is agreed upon; (4) the coordinated provision of assistance by the IF donors; and (5) an evaluation of the implementation and effects of the program. "Round Tables" are generally organized by UNCTAD and the World Bank in connection with regular Consultative Group Meetings—it is the responsibility of the LDC involved to request that a trade segment be included in the agenda of such meetings.

The IF donors have produced a Trade-Related Technical Assistance Needs-Assessment Questionnaire for the identification of country needs (<http://www.ldcs.org/intframe.htm>); an Integrated Response matrix document (<http://www.ldcs.org/implemen.htm>); an LDC-specific "Status of Implementation" matrix showing technical assistance needs identified, the responding donor organization, the nature of its TA response, and the status of the TA program (<http://www.ldcs.org/process.htm>); and a "model document" to help LDCs prepare for their meetings with donors (<http://www.ldcs.org/docout.htm>).

Of the world's 48 designated LDC nations, 38 of them are in Africa. As of late 1999, some 40 of the 48 target LDC governments had completed their Needs Assessments for assistance, in response to which the six IF donor agencies have produced integrated responses for each, identifying nearly 2,000 separate areas where they could provide technical assistance, some 900 of which are in place or near completion. Other activities are not yet scheduled to begin or have not begun due to lack of funding, rescheduling of priorities or other reasons. Thirty LDCs have reported their focal points to the ITC's Integrated Framework Administrative Unit. Nearly half of the countries have indicated their desire for "round table" and other consultative group meetings to discuss trade development strategies and to seek program funding. Twelve "round table" meetings were scheduled for 1999.

LDC trade-related technical assistance needs. The IF needs assessment questionnaire requests LDCs to respond to a number of needs diagnostic questions: e.g.,

- Trade Policy Requirements:
 - what are the sectors you believe are un-exploited or under-exploited?
 - What are your country's perspectives on the reasons for any changes in the structure or direction of its exports/imports?
 - What are the objectives of its trade policy?
 - What is the institutional structure of your government regarding trade policy, e.g., formulation, implementation, enforcement, and monitoring?
 - How are trade-related responsibilities and activities coordinated among them?
 - How are the private sector and academic institutions associated with the formulation and conduct of trade policy?
 - What institutions play a role in implementation of trade policy at the local level and what are their roles?
 - What are the main laws and regulations dealing with trade policy?
 - What are the main instruments of trade policy—e.g., import restrictions, licensing requirements, tariffs (and highest tariff rate applied); excise or other taxes?
 - If you are a WTO Member or are in the process of accession, how is your country preparing itself to comply with WTO agreements?
 - What is the state of familiarity with the WTO framework among government agencies, the private sector?
 - What are your technical assistance requirements with regard to your compliance with WTO agreements? With specific agreements? (e.g., market access, TRIPS, Anti-Dumping, etc.)
 - What is your assessment of your existing trade analysis and negotiating capacities in areas covered by WTO agreements and other areas, e.g., competition policy, trade and environment?
- Obstacles to expansion: the questionnaire asks for responses to targeted questions relating to problems in export markets, infrastructure, human capacities, institutional bottlenecks, trade financing problems, and gaps in trade information.

Types of IF Technical Assistance

IF assistance is intended to: (1) support institution-building to handle trade policy issues; (2) strengthen export supply capabilities; (3) strengthen trade support services; (4) enhance trade facilitation capabilities; (5) provide training and human resource development; and (6) assist in the creation of a supportive trade-related regulatory and policy framework that encourages trade and investment.

Basic forms of IF technical assistance that has been provided or are available to participating LDC nations, together with an indication of the source of such assistance, include:

- Specialized national and regional workshops by the **WTO** on the GATT/WTO and the multilateral trading system, assistance with accession, and technical services for implementation of WTO Obligations as well as infrastructural support (computers and internet Links via Reference Centers located in Trade ministries).

- Specialized assistance by **IMF** teams to review and update customs legislation and regulations and rationalize import tariffs to assure efficient collection of revenues;
- Advisory services by the **World Bank** to improve the national framework in LDCs for foreign investment in infrastructure and assistance in accessing credits for export enterprises;
- Trade information support by **ITC** through supply of information on current world market prices/trends for priority LDC export products, together with buyer-seller meetings, marketing missions, and specialized workshops to assist enterprises in product and market development;
- Consultancies provided by **UNCTAD** to assess the overall impact of globalization on specific LDCs in order to facilitate policy adaptation to various WTO agreements and enabling countries to maximize benefits from the new trading opportunities; and
- Continuous policy dialogue with LDC governments by **UNDP** on modalities for providing operational programs and activities;

Coordination of IF Assistance Activities

The Report of the High Level Meeting of October 1997 that led to the establishment of the Integrated Framework provided that “The ITC, the UNCTAD and the WTO [shall] ensure that activities for individual African LDCs implemented as part of their JITAP program form an integral part of the Integrated Framework.”

Financing/Funding of IF Technical Assistance

Integrated Framework activities are financed from the existing resources of the six founding agencies or by general or country-specific funds donated by other international organizations or donor countries. Where resources additional to those required to carry out country programs are required, they may be sought, with the support of the LDC involved, from bilateral and multilateral sources. As of late 1999, 20 multilateral or bilateral donors indicated their interest in contributing to funding for the IF.

Integrated Framework Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on the Integrated Framework, contact:

INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/ITC
PALAIS DES NATIONS
1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-730-0346
FAX: 41-22-730-0570
EMAIL: INFO@LDCS.ORG

IF Web Site: <http://www.ldcs.org/index.htm>

COORDINATED AFRICAN PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE ON SERVICES – CAPAS

The Coordinated African Program of Assistance on Services (CAPAS) is a program of technical assistance that focuses on building national policy-making capacity in Africa in the area of Trade in Services. The program provides African policymakers with tools to relate national policies and regional and international trade policies for Services by focusing, in particular, on the requirements of the new multilateral framework of rules and commitments under the Uruguay Round's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

CAPAS Technical Assistance

The program dates back to 1992, but, starting in 1999, a two-year region-wide effort focusing on all sub-Saharan African countries will assist governments to prepare for a new round of WTO-sponsored negotiations in Services. CAPAS is currently coordinated jointly by UNCTAD and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva and UN-DESA in New York. The three agencies coordinate the work program which to be implemented by participating countries; plan and organize regional seminars and other meetings; provide methodological support; and raise funds for the program. National institutions and national and regional experts undertake research studies and organize national seminars to disseminate their study findings. The studies, in turn, will serve as working documents for a series of four sub-regional seminars for African government officials and private sector representatives to help them identify national and region-wide negotiating interests and positions in forthcoming Services negotiations.

CAPAS Contact Points

NORBERT S. LEBALE/MARCEL NAMFUA
INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION
UNCTAD
PALAIS DES NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
TEL: 41-22-907-5920
FAX: 41-22-907-0044
EMAIL: NORBERT.LEBALE@UNCTAD.ORG
MARCEL.NAMFUA@UNCTAD.ORG

The CAPAS is described in a document that can be downloaded from the World Bank's web site:
<http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiep/trade/documents/CAPASsum.pdf>

D. BILATERAL AGENCY PROVIDERS

Several countries have major WTO- and trade related technical assistance activities aimed at supporting sub-Saharan Africa. These include the US, Germany, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland and others.

USA: UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – USAID

The United States of America makes available technical assistance and services to developing and least-developed countries: (a) primarily through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and (b) through certain other U.S. Government agencies with specific substantive or sectoral expertise, but usually with USAID funding. Among the latter are: Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service; Department of Commerce/Commercial Law Development Program and Patent/Trademark Office; and the Department of Treasury/Customs Service.

USAID is an independent federal government agency that conducts foreign assistance and humanitarian aid to advance the political and economic interests of the United States. The Agency helps the people of developing nations become participants in the economic and political lives of their nations, supporting policy reforms in key sectors by strengthening economic and political institutions critical to good governance, by encouraging the effective functioning of markets, by investing in human resources, and by aiding projects designed to promote sustainable growth.

USAID's economic growth and development activities assist in building indigenous institutions and developing policies to promote openness to trade and investment, support agriculture and rural enterprise, strengthen infrastructure and delivery of services, provide adequate incentives for exports, assist tax and tariff restructuring programs, assist privatization of enterprises, simplify and improve transparency of business regulations, avoid inefficient import substitution and unwarranted protection, and strengthen the enabling environment for development of the private sector.

USAID Technical Assistance

Most USAID Africa programs deliver technical assistance in the areas of agriculture, private sector development, and economic growth. Within these areas, the bulk of USAID's technical assistance activities-including trade policy or export facilitation projects-are designed and approved by the resident USAID Mission (there are 24 USAID missions in Africa). In addition, USAID operates two regional programs directly related to the multilateral trading system and the GATT/WTO framework of international agreements governing global trade: (a) The African Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) program which finances activities to help African private and public sector partners to design and implement policy reforms that will make their countries more attractive to international trade and investment; and (b), for southern Africa, a project to promote a more integrated regional market throughout the SADC member nations.

Another USAID activity, the Leland Initiative, is a five year US\$ 15 million effort to extend full Internet connectivity to approximately 20 African countries in order to promote sustainable development. In connection with the ATRIP program, USAID and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission intend to offer similar assistance to African countries seeking to promote competition and lower costs of other telecommunication services.

African Trade and Investment Policy Program (ATRIP). The ATRIP program provides selected African countries with: (1) WTO workshops and symposia; and (2) national capacity building in trade policy. Specific activities include:

- **WTO Awareness Workshops** (1-3 days). Regional and national workshops for trade ministry and private sector officials, dealing with GATT/WTO provisions and Uruguay Round agreements and procedures. The workshops often also consider upcoming WTO negotiations. In 1998/99, such workshops were sponsored for COMESA trade officials in Lusaka, and public and private sector officials in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda. In preparation for the new WTO round, workshops during 1999 in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Senegal, have specifically addressed analysis of agricultural trade issues/negotiations.
- **WTO Agreement-Specific Workshops** (1-3 days). Awareness workshops in some cases have been followed by in-depth technical assistance workshops addressing specific strategic, legal, or technical requirements of Uruguay Round agreements. For example, following a workshop in Pretoria, staff from USAID, USTR, and the Department of Agriculture, arranged additional technical workshops on standards and the Uruguay Round Agreements on SPS and TBT. USDA will host WTO briefings on USDA's perspectives in the WTO as it relates to international agricultural trade. The briefings will highlight U.S. agricultural trade positions for the upcoming round along with stressing the importance of the negotiations and having bilateral relationships with the countries in Africa.
- **Other Trade-Policy Technical Assistance.** In Mozambique (late 1998) and Uganda (April 1999), initial workshops led USAID to expand the scope and direction of trade-policy training and advisory activities now planned for the year 2000 in those countries (see next section).

Public/private capacity for trade policy development. Several USAID Missions in certain African countries have initiated trade-policy analysis/formation assistance to both national ministries responsible for trade and local private sector groups with an interest in reducing trade barriers and aligning technical standards with international market requirements. Examples of these USAID Mission-based activities include:

- In Mali, USAID assisted private exporters of livestock and rice to address policy restrictions and technical constraints to their exports and to identify opportunities for expanded regional exports;
- Additionally, in Mali, USAID has been assisting policymakers to understand the implications of Mali's obligations under the WTO and the Western African Economic & Monetary Union (WAEMU) with respect to international rules relating to Trade and Investment, in particular the Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS).
- In Uganda, the USAID Mission has initiated its "Capacity Building: Uganda Trade Policy" activity which provides assistance to the Government of Uganda and the Ugandan private sector for the development and implementation of trade policy relating to such Uruguay Round agreement areas as: customs valuation; licensing; standards and technical barriers to trade; sanitary standards; agricultural issues; and consistency of national laws with WTO requirements.

- In Mozambique, USAID is assisting trade officials and private sector groups to enhance their capacity for trade policy development and to participate more effectively in multilateral trade negotiations, as well as assisting Mozambique to build greater support for further trade liberalization.

Assistance for regional trade policy development and negotiations. USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) in Gaborone, Botswana, is providing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its member countries with assistance to facilitate their agreement on, and phased implementation of, the SADC Trade Protocol leading to a Southern African Free Trade Area. As part of that effort, USAID/Mozambique is assisting that country to complete ratification of the SADC Trade Protocol and to define the requirements for its effective implementation over the next eight years. The Mission is also providing assistance to the private sector to understand the challenges and opportunities the Trade Protocol presents.

USAID's Regional Trade and Comparative Advantage Project provides a series of analytical activities addressing regional trade issues and the impact of regional trade on agricultural production, comparative advantage, and food security in Eastern and Southern Africa. The results of the analyses are provided to national policymakers to help identify the impacts of evolving trade rules and arrangements.

Coordination of USAID Assistance Activities

Although the United States Government channels its technical assistance directly through USAID or other U.S. agencies and does not participate in either JITAP or the Integrated Framework, it coordinates closely with the major WTO and trade-related technical assistance agencies delivering technical assistance to African developing nations through those initiatives in assessing Africa-wide needs and delivery of assistance. Strong partnerships also have been established or are planned with several regional organizations that have expertise and interest in strengthening trade policies of their member countries-including SADC, COMESA, UEMOA, OAU/AEC, and the African Economic Research Consortium.

Financing/Funding of USAID Technical Assistance

USAID's technical assistance is provided on a grant basis but requires a parallel commitment of some type of resources from the host-country. The ATRIP program (which includes several components apart from trade policy assistance) is funded at approximately US\$ 22 million for Fiscal Year 2000.

USAID Contact Points and Web Sites

The bulk of USAID's technical assistance is designed and approved by the resident USAID missions located in 24 sub-Saharan African countries. Please see USAID Mission Director for respective host country or sub-regional missions. .

USAID/Africa Bureau Web Site: <http://www.info.usaid.gov/regions/afr/>

In addition, USAID has an Africa regional program of WTO-related technical assistance. For information, contact:

DAVID P. DOD
ATRIP PROGRAM MANAGER
BUREAU FOR AFRICA
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING, RM. 4.06-114,
1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-4600
E-MAIL: DDOD@USAID.GOV
TEL: 202-712-0784
FAX: 202-216-3373

For more information on USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA), contact:

SHEMMY SIMUYEMBA
PROJECT TEAM LEADER
USAID REGIONAL CENTER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
GABORONE
BOTSWANA
TEL.: 267-324449
FAX: 267-324404

USA: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture makes is the Agriculture ministry for the United States Government. It makes available technical assistance or information to developing nations through two programs: (1) the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and (2) the Economic Research Service (ERS).

Foreign Agriculture Service

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is the agency that represents the U.S. Government's agricultural interests abroad, primarily through agricultural attaches posted in various foreign countries. However, through its International Cooperation and Development Program, it provides certain USAID-funded technical assistance and research through two FAS units:

- The Development Resources Division, which provides technical advisers to USAID in the areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment, and design and implementation of development activities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment (in cooperation with USAID), multilateral development banks, international agencies, and host country governments.
- The Research and Scientific Exchanges Division, which provides workshops on technical, research, and agribusiness topics, and resident advisers in developing countries in agricultural policy, research, and agribusiness development.

FAS's technical assistance activities on trade aspects of SPS standards include the following:

- In May 1999, FAS hosted a comprehensive **program on the trade implications of international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards**. FAS invited two participants from 20 sub-Saharan African countries to take part in seminars and workshops to review SPS and other food safety issues, as well as the work of international bodies such as the WTO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The objective of the program was to provide government officials from these countries with a better understanding of internationally accepted standards and to convince them of the importance of active participation in the international bodies that set these standards.
- FAS transferred \$30,000 to FAO to help support **risk analysis and food standards workshops** in conjunction with the Codex Commission's Regional meetings in Africa. The principal goal of these activities is to increase awareness of SPS and food safety issues and encourage the participation of officials from these countries in international Codex meetings.
- The U.S. conducted five **meetings with developing countries**, including eight African nations, to raise issues of mutual concern that are before the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to encourage the active participation of these countries in Codex meetings.
- FAS has also supported training and workshops in conjunction with the **U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission**. In 1998, USDA supported several series of workshops in South Africa. These workshops were technical training initiatives designed to develop and share import requirements and risk assessment methodologies. These programs assist South African efforts in making sanitary and phytosanitary decisions based on sound scientific

principles. They also foster cooperation and encourage trade by sharing critical information concerning import and export requirements and expectations. These workshops covered a wide range of subjects, including USDA's policy of regionalization, animal health risk assessment procedures, and plant protection and quarantine risk assessment practices.

All of these workshops and training programs promote greater transparency and an increased understanding of WTO responsibilities and obligations. Other technical food safety workshops and assessments are being planned in early 1999, including a food safety assessment exchange between the United States and South Africa, which will allow food regulatory agencies in both countries to examine each other's food safety regimes and begin working toward mutual acceptance.

Economic Research Service

Economic Research Service undertakes extensive GATT/WTO-related research studies and maintains an informative "WTO Briefing Room" web site as a one-stop source for information and economic analysis of international agricultural trade issues and the WTO. The Briefing Room web site provides detailed information on:

- WTO rules for agricultural trade;
- Implementation of the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture;
- Technical barriers to trade in Agriculture;
- State trading enterprises' involvement in agricultural trade;
- Regional trade agreements; and
- Glossary of agricultural and trade-related terms.

For more information on the technical assistance activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service, contact:

HOWARD ANDERSON
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
ROOM 3219 (STOP 1087),
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-1087
TEL: 202-690-1924
EMAIL: ANDERSONH@FAS.USDA.GOV

For more information on Economic Research Service activities involving international trade in Agriculture, contact:

CHERYL CHRISTENSEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
STAFF ANALYSIS & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
MARKET ECONOMICS DIVISION
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
ROOM 5120N MST,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TEL: 202-694-5200
FAX: 202-694-5792
EMAIL: CHERYLC@ECONAG.GOV

Web Sites for the Department of Agriculture's FAS - Development Resources Division:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/drd/drd.html>

Web Site for the FAS Research and Scientific Exchanges Division:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/rsed/res-scient-exchanges.html>

Web Site for the Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service:
<http://www.econ.ag.gov/briefing/wto>

See also: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/policy/gatt/gatt.html>

USA: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/COMMERCIAL LAW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – CLDP

The Commercial Law Development Program, a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides technical assistance programs financed by the USAID. It offers assistance to support economic and political reform in developing countries, primarily by making available the expertise and services of officials of U.S. Government agencies who deal on a daily basis with the substantive and technical areas addressed by their agencies under agreement with USAID. CLDP programs currently underway or proposed for Sub-Saharan African countries include:

- Sponsorship or Co-Sponsorship with local institutions of **conferences on “Commercialization and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights”** (program has been held in Nigeria and one is planned for the SADC countries of Southern Africa). This program is designed to increase the awareness of the importance of IPR legislation; understanding of the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); and capacity of developing nations to achieve timely compliance with TRIPS obligations.
- Similar conferences may be scheduled on Government Procurement and Policy/Regulatory Reform.
- Commercial Law Integration Program, designed to increase cooperation and consultation between legal communities in Africa, including improving the access of the legal community to information and international expertise on trade, investment, and other commercial law matters.

For more information on the Commercial Law Development Program, contact:

ELIZABETH RICHMAN
PROGRAM ASSISTANT FOR AFRICA
COMMERCIAL LAW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
14TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230
TEL: 202-482-2400
FAX: 202-482-3244
EMAIL: ERICHMAN@DOC.GOV

Commercial Law Development Program's Web Site: <http://www.ogc.doc.gov/ogc/cldp/cldp.html>

USA: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION AGENCY

The National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), is a source of telecommunications expertise. NTIA worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, the FCC, and the U.S. Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), to develop and implement training workshops for foreign telecommunications regulatory authorities. The three, three-day workshops, which were focused on implementing the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement, were held in Washington, D.C. and covered a range of issues, including interconnection, spectrum management and universal service. The workshops also offered participants from developed and developing countries around the world a chance to review and discuss case-studies relevant to a liberalized market.

USA: TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING INSTITUTE

The United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), established in 1982, is a non-profit educational institution funded by United States government and industry. Its Board of Directors includes representatives from the Departments of Commerce and State and the Federal Communications Commission. Its curriculum includes more than 100 courses for telecommunications professionals, taught by USTTI, U.S. government and industry officials. With the advent of the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement, USTTI has incorporated more regulatory reform policy components into its technical curriculum. Approximately one-fifth of USTTI's training courses include segments on regulatory reform implications of the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement, including instruction on latest developments in telecommunications law and regulation.

Contact information:

UNITED STATES TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING INSTITUTE
1150 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
SUITE 702
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
USA
TELEPHONE: 202-785-7373
FAX: 202-785-1930
E-MAIL: TRAIN@USTTI.ORG

USA: OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION POLICY

The Office of International Communications & Information Policy of the U.S. Department of State conducts and participates in numerous activities providing help and support to other countries involving technical telecommunications issues. The State Department has been charged with coordination of a Presidential initiative, "Internet for Economic Development." This program will seek to accelerate the spread of the Internet and its applications (such as electronic commerce) in developing countries. The interagency committee working on design and implementation of the program has selected a dozen pilot countries and is undertaking discussions with these countries and their resident U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) missions on possible activities. This effort builds on experiences under AID's Leland Initiative, which since 1996 has been bringing the Internet to a select group of African countries. The new program will have four main components: 1) policy reforms to promote a pro-competitive environment for Internet services, 2) limited infrastructure assistance, 3) training, and 4) demonstrations of Internet applications most likely to spur economic development. At present, most programs will begin with existing AID funding, but partnerships with the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other multilateral institutions are being explored, as are partnerships with the private sector.

Contact information:

Ms. DOREEN F. MCGIRR,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ITU DEVELOPMENT SECTOR
EB/CIP, ROOM 4826
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION POLICY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

TELEPHONE: 202-647-0201
FAX: 202-647-7407
E-MAIL: MCGIRPDF@STATE.GOV

AUSTRALIA

Australia has an active program of technical cooperation and policy dialogue with partner developing countries aimed at strengthening their capacity to participate in global and regional trading arrangements and take advantage of new trade opportunities. Australia's program includes assistance with WTO accession and participation, trade and investment policy development, strengthening of customs and quarantine procedures, taxation (including tariff) reform, and the promotion of trade, investment and tourism.

While the geographic focus of Australia's aid program is on the Asia-Pacific region, selective assistance is provided to Africa, reflecting countries' development needs and prospects. Trade related assistance of relevance to Africa is described below.

Africa Governance Fund. The aim of the Africa Governance Fund is to contribute to the improvement of governance in selected African countries by strengthening key institutions of civil society and building the capacity of government agencies. Areas of primary focus include economic policy reform and development of appropriate regulatory frameworks. Applications are considered for activities from all countries for which Australian overseas missions in Africa have accreditation, with priority given to countries in southern Africa.

South African Capacity Building Program. The Capacity Building Program aims to assist the Government of South Africa access high quality technical assistance and training to meet the specific needs of national and provincial agencies in several key sectors, including economic and industry policy. Support under this program is currently being provided to the South African Ministry of Agriculture for training in trade negotiation skills.

Commonwealth Trade and Investment Access Facility. The Commonwealth Trade and Investment Access Facility (TIAF) was proposed by Australia prior to the October 1997 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). TIAF is administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat as an earmarked fund within the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. Proposals have been invited from Commonwealth member countries for policy advice, technical assistance and training to help:

- Identify and manage potential economic and social impacts of trade and investment liberalization, including strategies to identify new sources of revenue and new market opportunities;
- Put in place appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks to promote trade and investment flows; and
- Increase capacity to participate in WTO negotiations and meet requirements or standards of WTO and other international trade and investment agreements.

Trade Policy Evaluation Course. Australia has designed an annual 2-week course in Canberra for developing country officials working on trade policy and related issues. Topics covered include characteristics of 'good' trade policy; role of financial markets; monetary and banking policies; competition policy; regional trade agreements; WTO trade policy review mechanisms; food security; concepts of effective protection and domestic resource cost; measuring effects of government regulation. In 1999, the course included participants from South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Financing/Funding of Australian Technical Assistance

Australia's trade-related development assistance projects described above have been allocated and are estimated A\$90 million, with about A\$23 million expected to be disbursed in 1999-2000. An additional A\$33 million will be spent on other areas of economic and financial policy and management, and A\$62 million on human and institutional capacity building in the public sector.

Also relevant to its trade programs, Australia has pledged A\$1 billion over 4 years (1998/99-2001/02) for food security activities. A range of these activities will be directly relevant to helping developing countries respond to the issues identified in the WTO Ministerial Decision Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Program on Least Developed and Net Food Importing Developing Countries.

How to Request Australian Technical Assistance

Developing countries interested in seeking technical assistance for WTO-related issues should contact the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the address below.

Australian Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on Australia WTO-related technical assistance, contact:

TONY NEWMAN
A/G DIRECTOR
AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST SECTION
AUSAID
GPO Box 887
CANBERRA ACT2601
EMAIL: TONY_NEWMAN@AUSAID.GOV.AU
TEL: +61-2 6206 4770
FAX: +61-2 6206 4062

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/> (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

<http://www.aid.gov.au/> (Australian Aid)

<http://www.aciar.gov.au/> (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)

**GERMANY: DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GTZ) – GERMAN
AGENCY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is one of the world's largest enterprises in the field of development cooperation. It was established in January 1975, when the Federal Agency for Economic Cooperation (BfE) and the German Corporation for Technical Assistance to Developing Countries (GAWI) merged. The GTZ is the implementing agency for technical assistance of the German government. A public benefit organization, the GTZ is wholly owned by the German government. Its main task is to plan and implement the German contribution to projects and programs in developing countries. Most of its projects are commissioned from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Increasingly, however, it is also being contracted by other German ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior, and ministries and governments of the individual German states. International institutions and foreign governments, e.g., the European Union, also contract the GTZ and remunerate it directly ("Reimbursable Technical Cooperation") like other independent private consulting companies.

In addition, in cooperation with the German Central Placement Office (ZAV) of the German Federal Employment Institute (BA), GTZ runs an international human resources recruitment service, the Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung (Center for International Migration and Development; CIM). CIM's Integrated Experts Program responds to requests from organizations in partner countries to bridge temporary shortages in human resources by placing experts in the offices. Employers from the private sector, state, and parastatal institutions can turn to CIM with requests for experts.

GTZ's Technical Assistance

Among its many other activities, the GTZ provides technical assistance in international trade on WTO-related questions. In this context, the GTZ

- Assists recipient countries in formulating and implementing trade policies complying with WTO-Agreements, including ensuring WTO-conformity of regional trade agreements.
- Assists countries in their bid for WTO-membership, i.e., advises on reforms required in national laws, trade policies, etc.), and after their accession the GTZ helps them implementing obligations arising from WTO-membership.
- Provides training on various WTO-related issues upon demand.²

² One example of GTZ's WTO-related work is the cooperation between the GTZ and the government of Mongolia in international trade policy/WTO issues. Mongolia joined the WTO in January 1997, which opened several opportunities to build international trade relations and move ahead in its goal to build a market-based economy. However, Mongolia has not been able to take advantage of these opportunities, nor has it been able to fulfil all its obligations from the WTO Agreements. It lacks legislative as well as institutional expertise. Thus, the German-Mongolian project aims at building the necessary capacity within the country by training WTO experts and building a national training structure that would ensure future local capacity building measures. The expertise is the prerequisite for preparing and eventually implementing trade policies that comply with the WTO-Agreements.

Another example for GTZ's WTO-related activities is a project in Armenia sponsored by the EU under its TACIS program, an initiative to support economic transition in the New Independent States. GTZ provides

Types of GTZ Technical Assistance

GTZ's technical assistance activities cover a wide range of types, for example advisory services, equipment, training of locals, and financing and management of projects and programs. They can be summarized in four main categories:

- **Program consultation and concept development:** In this area, the GTZ coordinates with bilateral, multilateral, public, and private donors, such as the World Bank, the EU, IMF, development banks, and different German ministries. Especially important are exchanges of experiences and coordination of regional, i.e., international, and multi-sectoral programs of different organizations.
- **Project planning, monitoring, and evaluation:** Activities include support of the partner countries in planning of programs, and continuing assistance in the administration and evaluation of projects. The GTZ offers a number of different planning methods, such as Project Cycle Management, Participatory Poverty Assessment, expert commissions, hearings, international conferences, etc.
- **Project implementation and expert oversight:** Depending on the project, the GTZ supports its implementation by providing long-term experts and/or equipment (such as data-processing equipment). Additionally, it organizes continued local, regional, and international training specially tailored to the needs of the recipient countries.
- **Recruitment and placement of Integrated Experts:** The placement of Integrated Experts is driven by partner countries' demands. CIM's service package include recruiting and referring experts for organizations in partner countries, preparing experts for their work abroad, and topping-up payments.

Coordination of GTZ's Assistance Activities

The GTZ implements projects financed by the German government, the EU, and other multilateral and bilateral donor and lending agencies. Due to this engagement in a number of different international activities, the GTZ maintains an overview of on-going projects in the partner countries and cooperates with representatives of other international technical assistance agencies. The coordination usually takes place on an ad hoc basis within the partner countries, when GTZ offices establish contact to other international donor and implementing agencies.

Financing/Funding of GTZ Technical Assistance

Since the GTZ is the implementing organization for German contributions to technical cooperation projects, most of its funding comes directly from the German Ministry of Cooperation and

technical assistance to Armenia to prepare the government for accession to the WTO and to implement obligations related to the WTO accession. Tasks include providing WTO experts to Armenia for the purpose of drafting legislation, assisting with the preparation of documents relevant to Armenia's WTO application, and training, including the holding of seminars. Also, the GTZ assists with the establishment of a WTO unit in the Ministry of Economy. More detailed information on the project can be obtained from the Internet, at http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/contract_info/armenia/erdl.htm.

Development (BMZ). In 1998, the volume of its turnover amounted to DM 1,742 million (US\$ 900 million), of which about 10 percent (DM 180 million or US\$ 96 million) came from international clients, such as the EU, World Bank, Regional Development Banks, UNHCR, or foreign governments.

The ministry and international donor agencies provide full funding for technical assistance services of GTZ. However, a contribution is also usually required of GTZ's partner institutions in beneficiary countries. In addition, GTZ can also be contracted directly by partner country governments and institutions to provide assistance, in which case the requesting parties provide the funding themselves.

How to Request GTZ Technical Assistance

Governments interested in receiving technical assistance from the GTZ in general contact the delegation of the German government or the EU and agree on consulting projects. If the German government decides to fund this project, the GTZ could be the executing organization. However, if it is an EU-funded program for example, the GTZ bids for the contract together with other European consulting companies. Additionally, the governments of recipient countries can also ask the GTZ country offices or its headquarter to assist in the application for a technical assistance project, before actually applying to donor agencies.

GTZ Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on GTZ's technical assistance for WTO, contact

DR. RICARDO GÓMEZ
HEAD OF DIVISION 42 – STATE AND ECONOMIC REFORM, CIVIL SOCIETY
OR:
KINKA GERKE UNGER
WTO EXPERT
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FUER ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GTZ)
DAG-HAMMARSKJOLD-WEG 1-5
POSTFACH 5180
65726 ESCHBORN
GERMANY
PHONE: +49-6196-790
FAX: +49-6196-79-1115

For more information on GTZ: <http://www.gtz.de>

For the Integrated Experts program: <http://www.CIMonline.de>

**GERMANY: BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR WIRTSCHAFTLICHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT UND ENTWICKLUNG –
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (BMZ)**

The Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for planning and implementing the development policy of the German government. Its main tasks include:

- Developing bilateral and multilateral donor strategies and supporting development programs and projects of the partner countries.
- Promoting cooperation of non-government organizations in the area of development policy.
- Monitoring successes and overseeing the application of funds.

The ministry has two offices, one in Bonn and one in Berlin. The office in Berlin is responsible mainly for domestic aspects of Germany's development policies and interaction with the Parliament. BMZ's main office in Bonn is responsible for multilateral cooperation, development policy of the European Union (EU) and donor coordination. The BMZ also establishes the principles and main concepts of technical assistance for major sectoral and multi-sectoral areas.

BMZ Technical Assistance

BMZ's technical assistance programs in the areas of trade and agricultural policies are intended to help developing countries build necessary institutional capacity to participate in the multilateral trading system. The following is a summary of current and planned trade related capacity building projects funded by the BMZ on a bilateral level. The complete list, which includes multilaterally funded projects, can be found in Part V.

First, BMZ sponsors trade-related technical assistance aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to adopt and implement domestic laws and regulations in order to fulfil WTO obligations and to develop a framework for regional integration. On both a multilateral and a bilateral level, BMZ promotes activities that promote developing countries' integration into the WTO and world trade. The BMZ also follows the EU's goals of improving regional integration of developing countries. Specific activities include:

- **Assistance to the East African Community:** assisting the EAC-Secretariat in the promotion of regional integration within the community.
- **Improving the Integration of Least Developed Countries into the World Market and WTO:** strengthening the ability of the relevant authorities in developing countries (ministries of agriculture and trade) to participate in multilateral trade negotiations and to adapt local policies in order to maximise the benefit (or minimise the risk) of new trade agreements.

Second, BMZ assists Developing Countries pursue their interests in multilateral trade negotiations. Special focus is being placed on achieving better market access for products where they have a competitive advantage, reducing negative impacts of import substitution, reversing actions that have trade distorting effects, and where required by special conditions, negotiating exemptions from certain WTO obligations and regulations. BMZ gives particular emphasis to trade-related technical assistance aimed at enhancing the ability to trade of a given sector, country or region through supply-side reforms:

- **Product and marketing – agriculture:** introducing agricultural products into German market (coping with the EU quality requirements).
- **Product and marketing – textile:** enabling enterprises to develop their business relations with the German import industry.
- **Product and marketing – home accessories, gifts and toys:** introducing products into the German market (meeting with EU quality standards) and establishing business relations with the German import industry.
- **Product and marketing – technical products:** introducing products into the German market (matching EU quality standards) and establishing business relations with the German import industry.
- **Trade promotion for organic agricultural products:** promoting agricultural products certified under EU law as organic agricultural products.
- **European-African cooperation for handicrafts:** promoting export development in the handicraft sector.
- **Assistance to the SADC-Secretariat:** increasing growth and alleviating poverty by fostering regional economic integration and trade.
- **Investment and trade promotion in Côte d’Ivoire (planned):** improving conditions and structures for bilateral business relations with Germany.
- **Economic advisory service to the Ministry for Economics:** assisting the authorities in the establishment of laws and institutions for sustainable development.
- **Concepts and methods related to quality assurance for agricultural products in developing countries:** national actors in selected developing countries assume their responsibility with regard to the quality assurance of agricultural products and to the application of an ecologically sound plant protection. Special points of interest: SPS-Agreement and Codex Alimentarius standards.

BMZ also works on creating multilateral standards that ensure the compatibility of free exchange of goods and services or foreign investment with sustainable global development. Instead of sanctions and penalties, BMZ reports that it supports short-term technical assistance to help developing countries build the capacity to comply with environmental standards if they encounter problems.

Types of BMZ WTO-related Technical Assistance

The BMZ offers a wide range of technical assistance activities. Depending on the kind of funding, i.e., multilateral or bilateral, the generic type of the assistance might be different. On a multilateral level, the majority of projects are training and seminars for national or regional programs. On a bilateral level, activities might also consist of long-term advisory services, analyses, studies, and provision of equipment. Further, the BMZ is also willing to fund other projects depending on the needs and requests of the recipient country.

Coordination of BMZ Assistance Activities

The BMZ does not implement its projects and programs for development cooperation itself, but provides funding to certain organizations that carry out the programs on behalf of the BMZ. The most important organizations are:

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Association for Technical Cooperation) (GTZ);
- Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Development Bank) (KfW),
- Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (National Metrology Institute for Scientific and Technical Services) (PTB);
- Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung (German Foundation for International Development) (DSE);
- Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (German Development Service) (DED).

Financing/Funding of BMZ Technical Assistance

In 1998, the BMZ received funds for technical assistance projects from the federal government and the individual federal states that amounted to almost DM 8 billion (US \$4.3 billion). More than half of these funds, DM 5.4 billion (US \$2.9 billion), were used for bilateral projects, the remainder for multilateral projects. Sub-Saharan Africa is the biggest beneficiary, and receives about 39%, followed by South and South-East Asia and the Pacific (29%), Latin America (15%), Mediterranean, Near and Middle East (11%), and Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (6%).

Funds from the BMZ are not determined in advance, but are allocated as needed following the countries' requests for technical assistance. BMZ conducts country-specific needs analyses and drafts development concepts within which development activities are designed. Each request is being examined individually and funds are allocated depending on the size of the planned project.

How to Request BMZ Technical Assistance

Governments of developing countries submit requests for technical assistance either to the German embassies, or they agree on technical assistance projects during bilateral government negotiations. The requests are forwarded to the BMZ, which examines the project according to the previously developed country concepts to see whether it fits into the scheme. If the request seems relevant and promises to be successful, the BMZ allocates funds and contracts an organization to carry out the project. The process from submitting a request to the actual start of the technical assistance may take several months, depending on the complexity of the project and its usefulness within the country concept.

BMZ Contact Points and Web Sites

Initial contact points for more information about technical assistance should be the German embassies and representations in individual countries. Additionally, interested people can contact the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in Bonn:

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR WIRTSCHAFTLICHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT UND ENTWICKLUNG
DIENSTSITZ BONN
FRIEDRICH-EBERT ALLEE 40
53113 BONN
GERMANY
PHONE: +49-228-535-0
FAX: +49-228-535-3500
EMAIL: POSTSTELLE@BMZ.BUND.DE
HOMEPAGE: [HTTP://WWW.BMZ.DE](http://WWW.BMZ.DE)

For organizations implementing technical assistance activities on behalf of the BMZ:

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Association for Technical Cooperation) <http://www.gtz.de>
- Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Development Bank) <http://www.kfw.de>
- Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (National Metrology Institute for Scientific and Technical Services) <http://www.ptb.de>
- Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung (German Foundation for International Development) <http://www.dse.de>
- Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (German Development Service) <http://www.ded.de>

SWEDEN: SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY - SIDA

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is the public sector agency that plans and administers Sweden's bilateral cooperation programs with developing countries. At present, Sida is supporting some 2000 projects. The major part of its resources is allocated to 20 partner countries, where long-term cooperation is implemented.

In 1998, various departments of Sida, representatives of Sweden's business community, individual trade-based organizations, and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) developed a policy and action plan for Sida in the area of trade development, based on its overall objective of development collaboration. The goal of this effort was to improve Sida's ability to assist developing countries, especially least developed countries, to better integrate into the global economy, and to improve their ability to take advantage of growth opportunities that might result from international trade and investment. An important part of this goal is to assist partner countries in increasing their ability to analyze the effects of international and regional trade agreements, with particular emphasis being placed on WTO agreements.

Sida Technical Assistance

In May 1999, Sida sponsored and organized The World Trade and Conformity Assessment/Quality Infrastructure Development Training Course for 30 participants from ten sub-Saharan African countries. In 2000, the program will be repeated for participants from Central and Latin America. The program's objectives are to provide information and training to the relevant government officials and representatives of economic organizations on international trade and the resulting conformity assessment. The anticipated result of the program is that participants should be able to initiate and participate in the decision-making process when harmonizing their national quality infrastructures to the new principles of international trade.

The program aims to provide participants with a more in-depth understanding of:

- The principles of international trade, with specific emphasis on the WTO Agreements and the SADC Trade Protocol (rights and obligations, effect on participating countries, notification procedures, etc.).
- Technical regulatory activities in society and related conformity assessment procedures concerned with national and international trade, safety, health, and environmental requirements.
- Development of national quality standards infrastructure (institutional infrastructures for standardization, accreditation, certification, inspection, testing, metrology and quality assurance).
- The concept of quality standards (quality system development [ISO 9000], TQM, quality prices).
- Accreditation (role, organization and international requirements).
- Certification (role, organization and international requirements).
- Standardization (role, organization, and international requirements).
- Metrology (role, organization, and international requirements).
- Testing (role, organization, and international requirements).
- Inspection (role, organization, and international requirements).

- The development of national quality standards policies and the related institutional infrastructure.

Types of Sida WTO-related Technical Assistance

Besides training programs such as the one described above, Sida also provides technical assistance in other areas. For example, among other activities, Sida provides:

- Support to private sector development through training and support of capacity building measures;
- Funding for trade-related projects formulated and requested by governments of recipient countries;
- Experts to carry out trade analyses in connection with specific programs and projects;
- Analyses of trade issues to enable the recipient countries to participate in a more broadly-based development debate;
- Experts to participate in national strategy formulation and aid planning from a trade perspective, in order to highlight the importance of trade issues;
- Assistance in raising efficiency in trade-related product standardization, certification, and statistics, based on the needs of international trade; and
- Technical capacity for analyzing the consequences of various trade agreements.

Financing/Funding of Sida's Technical Assistance

In 1998, provided some SEK 8 billion (US \$0.96 billion) to development cooperation. Sida specifies that its activities are based on the assumptions that the recipient countries wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest their own resources to achieve these changes. For the World Trade and Conformity Assessment/Quality Infrastructure Training Course described above, for example, program participants must arrange for their own travel. However, Sida provides scholarships covering participation fee (SEK 68,500, approximately US \$8,200) and accommodation costs (SEK 32,500, approximately US \$3,900) for participants from lower income developing countries. Participants from other countries are themselves responsible for such costs.

How to Request Sida Technical Assistance

Training programs such as the one described above are open to candidates from lower and lower-middle income developing countries. Invitations to nominate candidates are issued to those countries that have prioritized such activities. Interest may be expressed either to Sida or to the relevant program organizers. Sida selects the countries to be invited in consultation with the various program organizers. Organizations, institutions, corporations and authorities from both the public and private sectors are welcome to nominate candidates for Sida's International Training Programs. Each participant must be nominated by an appropriate authority or organization in accordance with the regulations applied by each country, and possess a high level of proficiency in both written and spoken English, the language of instruction. Those who do not have English as a native language are required to submit an official language certificate indicating their proficiency in the language. Nominations for each program are assessed on individual merits and the most qualified candidates are selected. Generally speaking, no more than two candidates from each country participate in the same program.

Sida Contact Points and Web Sites

For more information on Sida's economic cooperation, contact:

MR. GÖRAN EDEHORN
INEC/PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
SVEAVÄGEN 20
10525 STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN
PHONE: +46-8-698-5000
FAX: +46-8-208-864
EMAIL: GORAN.EDEHORN@SIDA.SE

For Sida's web site, see: <http://www.Sida.se>

For Ministry of Foreign Affairs, see: <http://www.ud.se/english/index.htm>

SWITZERLAND

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in Switzerland has created a framework for trade-related technical assistance called the Trade-Related Technical Co-operation (TRTC) Program. The objective of this program is to support the efforts of developing countries and countries in transition, in their work toward capacity building for trade policy formulation and implementation; raising the efficiency of trade operations in their countries; and facilitating access to Swiss markets for their exporters.

SECO Technical Assistance

Switzerland's technical assistance on trade-related policy areas focuses on supporting Least Developed Countries and Countries in Transition, both by providing technical assistance in Geneva or in the field to recipient nations. Switzerland provides such support principally directly to developing country governments. However SECO has also sponsored initiatives geared toward reducing the gaps between national trade negotiators and civil representatives of their own societies.

Switzerland's principle program for WTO-related technical assistance is its financing of the Agency for International Trade Information and Co-operation (AITIC). An independent organization based in Geneva, AITIC provides technical assistance to delegates of less-advantaged countries (LACs) in Geneva (or neighboring capitals) through personalized assistance on trade-related issues with a view to helping them take a more active role in the work of the WTO and other trade-related organizations in Geneva. AITIC was designed and developed by the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs, and is at present financed exclusively by the Swiss Government. (For documents describing AITIC's background, and workshop papers, see: <http://www.acici.org/aitic/documents/index.html>)

Additionally, since 1991, Switzerland has financed trade policy courses executed jointly by WTO and the Swiss Government for countries in transition, and is currently sponsoring a seminar on trade negotiations as related to the WTO, for developing countries. Switzerland is providing co-financing for several programs at the Geneva based Graduate Institute for International Studies (IUHEI) aiming at creating an interface between academics and trade negotiators on WTO related issues. Finally, SECO is sponsoring a course on International Economic Law, Dispute Settlement and International Organizations, at the Academy of International Economic Law and Dispute Settlement of the University of Geneva.

Looking ahead, Switzerland has indicated that it will continue focusing on capacity building as a vehicle to enable developing countries and countries in transition to better participate in the upcoming WTO negotiations. Switzerland is examining a broad NGO-initiative in and for Africa called the South East African Trade Initiative (SEATINI), aimed at assisting developing countries in formulating their policy priorities in the context of WTO compliance and negotiations. In addition to programs for Africa, Switzerland also plans to focus such technical assistance on the Balkan region in the coming years.

Financing/Funding of SECO Technical Assistance

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in Switzerland has allocated a budget of CHF 20 million annually for TRTC, for which CHF 5 million is disbursed each year for support in the area of trade policy.

While many TRTC activities that take place in Geneva and in partner countries are executed by the World Trade Organization, SECO also supports WTO with extra-budgetary resources of CHF 500,000 annually in following areas:

- Assistance for the implementation of the TBT and SPS Agreements;
- Training on Dispute Settlement Procedures;
- Assistance for the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement; and
- Assistance for the mandatory submission of data to the Integrated Data Base (IDB).

Switzerland also supports to the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program (JITAP) of WTO/UNCTAD/ITC. For the period of 1998 – 2001, it has providing funding in the amount of CHF2 million (\$1.29 million) for Ghana and CHF1 million (\$0.65 million) for Uganda.

Additionally, Switzerland contributes CHF 700,000 (\$0.45 million) to the Agency for International Trade Information and Co-operation (AITIC) annually. For WTO-related academic courses offered at the Graduate Institute for International Studies and the Academy of International Economic Law and Dispute Settlement of the University of Geneva, Switzerland contributes CHF 400,000 each year. Switzerland's programs in association with the International Development Law Institute in Rome and UNITAR, are allocated CHF 1million annually.

Switzerland also provides support to organizations such as the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva. ICTSD, and NGO, disseminates relevant trade policy information to civil society and works to build contacts between trade sector organizations and the NGO community. For the period of 1998-2000, Switzerland is contributing CHF 760,000 to ICTSD. Also, Switzerland is co-financing initiatives fostering the integration of trade/environment-issues in the negotiations between the Andean Community and Mercosur Negotiations by supporting an initiative coordinated by Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano. In Kenya, Switzerland is providing support to the African Centre for Technology Studies for the coordination and sponsorship of different workshops on TRIPS and the Convention of Biological Diversity.

How to Request SECO Technical Assistance

Swiss technical assistance to developing nations has been to date entirely a function of requests coming from partner countries. For example, Switzerland is supporting Vietnam on its negotiation for WTO-accession through a variety of programs, one of which is executed by UNCTAD. Together with the International Development Law Institute in Rome (IDLI) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Switzerland is supporting institution- and capacity-building for WTO-related trade policy formulation through workshops and co-operation with local counterpart agencies. In Africa programs are conducted principally in cooperation the IDLI, and in Central Asia primarily with UNITAR.

Developing countries interested in seeking similar assistance for WTO-related issues, should contact the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs at the address listed below.

SECO Contact Information and Web Sites

For additional information on WTO technical assistance activities available from the Government of Switzerland, contact:

MR. REMIGI WINZAP
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
ESSINGER STR. 1
3003 BERN
SWITZERLAND
TEL: +41-324-0914
FAX: +41-324-0954
EMAIL: REMIGI.WINZAP@SECO.ADMIN.CH

Useful web links for Switzerland, include:

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/site/f.html> (Department of Foreign Affairs – in French)

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/site/e.html> (Department of Foreign Affairs – in English)

http://194.230.65.134/dezaweb2/frame_ie.asp?bgstyle=bg_homepage (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)

<http://www.acici.org/aitic/index.html> AITIC: Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation, Geneva)

<http://www.ictsd.org/> (ICTSD: International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva)

ADDITIONAL BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

This section briefly describes bilateral technical assistance programs offered by countries that concentrate their trade-related foreign assistance on budgetary support of multilateral institutions. Many of the organizations and ministries contacted during the research phase for this Guide explained that, due to the size of their respective their bilateral technical assistance programs, they do not have sufficient human resources to provide experts in all areas where technical assistance is requested. Therefore, these countries typically pass such requests on to specialized multilateral organizations (e.g., WTO, WCO, UNCTAD, etc.) if the desired services arise in areas where they do not already have bilateral activities, and endeavor to provide financial support where needed.

The first part of this section describes WTO-related programs and projects of those countries that have some provision for direct technical assistance in this area. The second part refers to web sites of those countries that support multilateral agencies through extra-budgetary funds and are involved in multilateral trade-related technical assistance projects.

Egypt

The government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, through its Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation on Africa, provides technical assistance to certain least developed African member states of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Egypt joined COMESA in 1998. This assistance includes both training and technical services.

For more details on Egypt's Fund for Technical Cooperation on Africa please contact:

AMBASSADOR SAMIRA EL-AKKADI
EGYPTIAN FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON AFRICA
CAIRO,
EGYPT
PHONE +202 5758466
FAX +202 574 5303

New Zealand

New Zealand's Official Development Assistance Programme (NZODA) is managed by the Development Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in conjunction with New Zealand's diplomatic posts in partner countries. NZODA concentrates its country and regional support on the Pacific Island states and the developing countries of east and Southeast Asia. However, NZODA also operates a small program in East and South Africa.

In recent years, NZODA carried out two WTO and trade related technical assistance projects in Africa. It conducted a Seminar on Animal Health Risk Analysis for regulatory veterinarians for SADC countries, and it conducted Animal Health Workshops for government veterinarians on risk management and certification procedures for meat exports to the European Union. For the period 1999-2000, NZODA has budgeted approximately NZ \$4 billion (US \$2 billion) for technical assistance activities in Africa, including projects in South Africa, which receives almost a quarter of NZODA's total African budget. In the current period, NZODA expects to provide about NZ \$400,000 (US \$200,000) to be able to quickly provide assistance on a very specific short-term basis in areas identified as priorities by the partner government, including technical assistance on WTO-

related issues. Depending on the request received from the partner country, New Zealand can provide technical assistance, advice, or cash grants.

For more details on these technical assistance projects and other aid available from New Zealand, interested parties should contact the New Zealand High Commission in Harare and Pretoria:

THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OFFICER
NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION HARARE
EASTGATE CENTER
CNR ROBERT MUGABE ROAD AND SECOND STREET
P.O. BOX 5448
HARARE
ZIMBABWE
PHONE: +2634-759-221

Or:

THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OFFICER
NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA
BLOCK C
HATFIELD
PRETORIA 0028
SOUTH AFRICA
PHONE: +2712-342-8656

Or:

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION DIVISION
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
PRIVATE BAG 18 901
WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND
PHONE: +64-4-494-8500
FAX: +64-4-494-8514

For more information on NZODA's programs, see: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/nzoda>

Norway

Norwegian development assistance is administered by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). NORAD conducts long-term government-to-government development cooperation with close to 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Central America. It works through Norwegian embassies and is in constant dialogue with partner countries concerning priorities and framework conditions for development cooperation. NORAD's priority partners in cooperation and beneficiaries of its development assistance are typically central governments and local authorities, organizations of civil society, and the business sector. In addition to government-to-government cooperation, Norway also provides significant assistance for activities under the auspices of a regional organization, the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The majority of Norway's support of WTO and trade-related technical assistance activities takes place through budgetary support of multilateral donor agencies, such as the ITC, WTO, UNDP, and co-financing of their projects. Certain African countries that belong to a group of eight priority partner countries for Norway's bilateral aid (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania,

Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe) also receive programs for assistance in creating private sector development strategies, implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For more information on NORAD's technical assistance programs, interested governments should contact Norway's embassy in the respective country, or contact:

NORAD
 RUSELØKKVEIEN 26
 POSTBOKS 8034 DEP.
 0030 OSLO
 NORWAY
 TELEPHONE: +47-2224-2030
 FAX: +47-2224-2031

For more information, see NORAD's web site: <http://www.norad.no/> (Directorate for Development Aid).

Or refer to other government links: <http://odin.dep.no/ud/eng/index.html> (Min of Foreign Affairs)

Other Potential Bilateral Sources of Trade-related Technical Assistance

Canada:

Canada International Development Agency:

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca> (Canadian International Development Agency – English/French)

International Trade and Development – Home Page:

http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/8525629000655488852561a9006bf4bd/cb7ffbe598239e378525654e0051afec?OpenDocument

Denmark:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

<http://www.um.dk/>

Center for Development Research:

<http://www.cdr.dk/>

The Netherlands:

Min of Foreign Affairs:

<http://www.bz.minbuza.nl/English>

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Part V. Selected Program Documents

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1. World Trade Organization—Guidelines for WTO Technical Cooperation

WTO PROGRAMME FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION, THREE-YEAR PLAN (1999–2001): NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

Introduction

1. The guidelines for WTO technical cooperation, adopted by the Committee on Trade and Development on 15 October 1996, require that the three-year plan for technical cooperation be presented to the Committee on Trade and Development. The attached plan covers the period 1999–2001.

2. The work of the WTO Secretariat providing technical assistance and cooperation from headquarters, in response to requests for assistance in the resolution of specific issues and problems of the Members concerned, continued in 1998. This work includes providing technical assistance and cooperation through (i) contacts with delegations and capital-based representatives in Geneva (also in seminar/workshop format), and (ii) direct contacts with capital-based officials via telecommunications. Such activities are not covered in the attached plan, the focus of which is on the Secretariat's activities as they involve work in the field and events where funding is to be provided for experts from capitals to travel to Geneva.

3. The Trade Policy Courses are also an important component of WTO technical cooperation activities at headquarters. Annex 2 to this note presents the activities carried out in this context as well as future plans for the next Three-Year Period (1999–2001).

Background

4. A full report on WTO technical cooperation activities during 1998 will be provided to the Committee on Trade and Development early in 1999. A preliminary review shows that, by the end of the year, the Secretariat will have organized and/or participated in over 280 different activities, whilst, according to the reports submitted to the Committee, a total of 79 activities had been undertaken in 1995, the first year of the WTO, 124 activities in 1996, and 227 activities were carried out in 1997. This evolution shows an increase of approximately 56 per cent in activities in 1996 over 1995, an 83 per cent increase in 1997 over 1996, and roughly a 24 per cent increase in 1998 over 1997. In 1998 many of these activities were done on a regional basis, thus reaching a larger number of participants, and had a considerably longer duration than the usual two-three days to one-week seminar/workshop. Funding considerations aside, the increasing trend in requests for technical cooperation can be expected to continue during the next three years.

5. Furthermore, during 1998 the trend toward an increasing number of activities at the regional level mentioned in the previous three-year plan (doc. WT/COMTD/W/32/Rev.1) was confirmed. It was based on the substantive financial resources provided through generous voluntary contributions from certain Members, and on close collaboration with other international organizations, including

the World Bank, ITC and UNCTAD and regional development banks. The experience over the last four years, especially in 1997 and in 1998, points to the growing efficiency and cost-effectiveness, especially for the WTO, of this mode of delivery, in particular in relation to the development and training of human resources, and in relation to dissemination of information and clarification of issues, both traditional and new.

6. The situation described in the previous paragraphs only confirms the increasing dynamism in WTO technical cooperation activities. One way or another, various parts of the Secretariat are involved, on a daily basis, in providing advice and technical assistance to Members. Up to now, the increasing workload, both on substance and on administration, logistics and coordination, has been absorbed by the Secretariat, with the same basic manning table of the past three years and with barely minimum internal adjustments. However, it may be expected that human resources which during this period have been dedicated to technical cooperation activities, might in the future with the initiation of the process leading up to the Third Ministerial Meeting and later with the commencement of mandated negotiations, as also due to an increase in recourse to dispute settlement procedures, be diverted to other work. In this situation, it may not be possible to sustain the increasing trend in technical cooperation activities.

7. In the face of constantly increasing workloads, a number of improvements and adjustments can be introduced into current operations that would, with the present human resource base, improve the productivity rate. These are ideas that, subject to the availability of adequate financial resources, would enhance the productivity of the present human resource base through more intensive utilisation of new technologies. Among those, the following are under active consideration: - preparing a WTO Course on videocassette; - developing "primers" of good practices (e.g. draft legislation on customs valuation, on TRIPS, etc., publication of "how-to" booklets on different agreements, such as TBT, SPS, etc.); - use more video-conferencing for meetings and seminars; - develop more in-depth computer-based training (CBT) packages.

Future Orientations

8. Whereas improvements and adjustments are constantly applied to technical cooperation operations, it is obvious that new approaches and new modalities for execution need to be explored. These may range from outright "outsourcing," that is, subcontracting technical cooperation activities to outside services, to more gradual possibilities that ensure full identification of technical cooperation activities with the WTO Secretariat and full "quality control" of the prospective product. In any case, what is needed is an approach that would guarantee a fuller, deeper and wider reach for the WTO philosophy, and an increased and improved WTO response to ever growing demands for technical cooperation.

9. An enhanced WTO response capacity could be achieved through enlisting the collaboration of external institutions of renowned prestige and credibility (including so-called "Academic Centres of Excellence," both public and private) through what may be called the "WTO Outreach Programme" (in practical terms, a limited decentralization of technical assistance). Its operation would be relatively simple, although its introduction would have to be carefully prepared and executed through stages over the next three years or so.

10. The work already undertaken with regional institutions such as the regional development banks can serve as a basis to identify relevant external institutions. Regional Secretariats and UN regional economic commissions could also be considered for participation in such a programme. The underlying idea is to enhance the collaboration that already exists with many of these institutions,

taking it to new levels in terms of training trainers and developing pilot workshops/courses which could become institutionalized, that is, undertaken on a recurrent yearly basis. At the initial stages, full participation of WTO experts would be needed, but this participation could slowly be reduced, to a point where the regional institutions themselves become fully responsible for the organization and delivery of certain workshops/seminars, with the WTO Secretariat maintaining a degree of participation and surveillance to guarantee the quality of the product, both in terms of the event itself and in terms of the documentation.

11. Over the next three years or so, working step by step, the WTO may succeed in having a substantial number of regional activities undertaken by the regional institutions themselves, under the WTO "brand name." This would allow the WTO, on the one hand, to achieve a substantive "multiplier" effect for its activities, and on the other, to reserve the scarce resources of the WTO Secretariat (in terms of human expertise) to be used on a more rational basis and more intensively on specialized and more in-depth activities at the national level.

Financial Considerations

12. A preliminary attempt to estimate financial requirements for 1999 shows that a considerable shortfall may be anticipated, since presently the remaining balance in the Trust Funds at the beginning of next year is estimated at Swiss francs 1.8 million (Netherlands, about 200 thousand; Switzerland, about 650 thousand; and Hong Kong, China, 950 thousand). The Norwegian fund will have been exhausted, and the Italian, Japanese and New Zealand funds will, or will have been used for the specific purposes indicated there-in. The HLM Trust Fund will also have been exhausted - used for follow-up to the HLM. Since the Technical Cooperation Missions budget line will remain constant at 741 thousand Swiss francs, total financial resources available for 1999, as of now, would stand at around 2.5 million Swiss francs. It may be recalled that activities carried out and planned for 1998, involve a financial outlay of a little over 5 million Swiss francs. In the absence of additional Trust Funds, current conditions would force the WTO to scale down technical cooperation activities by about 3 million Swiss francs or by some 20 regional seminars or 150 national missions based on the average cost for 1998.

Structure

13. In the process of preparing the present document, a communication was sent to Delegations of developing-country Members in Geneva inviting them to present requests for technical cooperation activities for 1999 by 15 September 1998. This target date was set in terms of the lead-time required in the Secretariat for the production and circulation of the present document; it does not imply that requests presented afterwards will not receive adequate attention and response. Replies to this communication have been received from numerous delegations, some of them in very precise terms for 1999, some containing only indications of areas of interest and preferred modes of delivery (e.g., technical missions, general seminars, technical workshops, etc.). In some other cases, requests pending from the previous plan have also been taken into account.

14. A number of the requests presented in precise terms, and a number of concrete activities, already foreseen for 1999, are listed in Annex 1. As in the past, a number of other requests require consultations with the delegation concerned in order to define, in more specific terms, the activities to be undertaken. The Secretariat will make all necessary efforts, within its existing resources, to cover as many as possible of technical cooperation needs. WTO commitments to provide technical

assistance in reply to the Needs Assessment submitted by least-developed countries in the context of the Integrated Framework for least-developed countries (follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on LDCs) have also been incorporated in Annex 1.

15. In light of the above, the structure of the present document follows closely the structure of document WT/COMTD/W/32/Rev.1. After the present introductory section, the Plan describes the broad lines of action for the Secretariat's technical cooperation activities on different WTO subjects for the years 1999 and 2000. For the year 2001, a general statement of an indicative nature is included, outlining likely priorities for the future. Annex 1 contains a list of foreseen/planned activities for 1999, and Annex 2 covers the WTO Trade Policy Courses held in Geneva.

16. Annex 1 is split into four categories:

- 1.A. Events wholly organized and financed by the WTO, either through the regular budget for technical cooperation missions, or from trust funds established with voluntary contributions and administered by the WTO;
- 1.B. Events organized jointly by the WTO with other institutions, and events organized and financed by other institutions, where the WTO is to participate in a major or substantive role;
- 1.C. Events where the WTO has been invited to participate, along with a number of other institutions; and
- 1.D. Activities undertaken within the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance for the least-developed countries (follow-up to the High Level Meeting on LDCs).

Final Remarks

17. As in the past, many actors are involved in each of the 1999 events. The WTO Secretariat as a whole; the host country; funding resources; and the beneficiary countries themselves. The interaction required among these actors is an important factor in the determination of exact dates, coverage, participation and documentation for the particular events.

18. The global objective of the Secretariat's technical cooperation activities, as summarized in document WT/COMTD/W/32/Rev.1, continues to be valid, and is reproduced below:

First, to enhance the implementation of the priority placed by Members on the integration of the least-developed countries into the multilateral trading system, as a means to assist them in their development efforts, in particular in the light of the results of the High Level Meeting on an integrated response for trade-related technical cooperation for them;

Second, to continue implementing assistance for the better understanding of rights and obligations of developing countries under the WTO Agreements, and for their improved implementation, and to facilitate participation in work on new issues;

Third, to continue improving the coordination and management of technical cooperation activities of the Secretariat as a whole;

Fourth, to make increasing use of more efficient and cost-effective modes of delivery, such as regional activities; and

Fifth, to multiply the utilisation of information technology-based technical cooperation and training tools.

18. The specific aims in relation to a certain number of areas and subjects are set out below for 1999 and 2000. For the year 2001, a general statement outlining likely priorities for the future is

included. Annex 1 contains a list of foreseen/planned activities for 1999, and Annex 2 covers the WTO Trade Policy Courses held in Geneva.

1999

1. Agriculture and SPS Agreements

1.1 Agreement on Agriculture

In 1999, the focus of the Secretariat's technical assistance activities related to the Agreement on Agriculture will remain on assisting Members in implementing their specific commitments in the areas of market access, domestic support and export competition, and on being available for technical, legal and policy advice in the context of any changes in trade-related agricultural policies on the part of individual Members. In addition, the Secretariat will also provide assistance, on request of Members, in preparing for the agricultural negotiations to be launched at the end of 1999. Much of this assistance will be provided at or from headquarters.

It is envisaged to provide targeted assistance by way of missions to the capitals of 5 to 6 Members on a demand-driven basis. Preference will be given to requests from African and Asian countries. In addition, the Secretariat intends to conduct, or participate in, two regional seminars on the rules, commitments and negotiations in agriculture (one in Africa and one in Latin America). At least one of these regional seminars will be conducted in cooperation with other international organizations, in particular the World Bank and/or FAO. WTO sponsorship of the participation of some Members in these seminars will be required.

Missions already provisionally scheduled are indicated in the Annex 1.

1.2 SPS Agreement

Technical cooperation under the SPS Agreement has typically taken the form of national or regional seminars organized in response to developing-country Members' requests, or at the initiative of the Secretariat. In order to decide in which countries/regions such seminars should be organized, the Secretariat takes especially into account the implementation difficulties of these Members as reported by their representatives at the SPS Committee meetings, at other international fora meetings, and in consultation with the Secretariat.

Like the recent workshop in the Philippines (30 June-3 July 1998), SPS seminars will likely include in the future one or two special sessions/workshops on practical implementation of the Agreement (risk assessment; equivalence; methods of production (HACCP); enquiry points, etc.). Following the Secretariat's emphasis in the early days of the WTO to improve awareness and understanding of Members' rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement, adding this feature to our programme is an important and practical step to assist implementation. However, as the Secretariat will have to draw on external experts in the relevant areas, this will have financial implications for the WTO.

Missions already provisionally scheduled are indicated in the Annex 1.

2. Market Access Issues

2.1 Tariff Schedules

In 1999 the Secretariat will have to pursue providing assistance to a number of developing countries in connection with the transposition of their pre-Uruguay Round Schedules into the Harmonized System, including the changes that have taken place in 1996 (HS96). While the main attention may focus on certain French-speaking African least-developed countries (see the section on the least-developed countries), requests for assistance in this respect may also come from a few Asian (and Central American) countries. In addition, assistance will need to be provided to some developing countries with a view to establishing consolidated loose-leaf schedules of tariff concessions.

2.2 Agreement on Customs Valuation

In document WT/COMTD/W/25, it was stated that a total of 54 developing countries have made use of Article 20 of the Agreement enabling them to invoke a 5 year delay for the application of the provisions of the Agreement, and that for 28 of those countries the transition period ends at the end of 1999. For another 20, the transition period ends at the end of the year 2000. The Secretariat's activities in this area will thus have to be oriented toward assisting those countries to be adequately prepared for the fulfillment of their obligations by that deadline. The WTO Secretariat has organized a technical assistance programme which makes use of expert consultants (one Spanish, French and English-speaking) to go to each of the countries which have invoked the delay or who request assistance, to assist them with all aspects of their transitional process. The Market Access Division has conducted around 10 such missions in the last 2 quarters of 1998. The Division estimates between 15–20 of these missions will be held in 1999 and another 15–20 through the year 2000.

Under the arrangements with APEC, around 9 Asian countries have been receiving intensive technical training on valuation with the cooperation of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the period 1997/1998. Member governments have also been giving extensive assistance through the APEC Secretariat.

Coordination with the WCO valuation team is an on-going process because it is clear to all that cooperation with the WCO will contribute to the effectiveness of technical assistance activities.

2.3 Agreement on Rules of Origin

The Committee on Rules of Origin has been working on the harmonization work programme (HWP) for non-preferential Rules of Origin. Members have committed themselves to making their best endeavours to complete the work programme by November 1999. If the HWP is finalized by that time it will become necessary to assist a large number of developing countries to implement the new harmonized rules of origin. In the meantime, it will be necessary to assist certain smaller developing countries which specifically request so, in the understanding of technical negotiating issues. For instance, in the current year two such requests were received and missions were carried out in response.

2.4 The Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers

On 16 July 1997, the General Council decided, inter-alia, that the Secretariat "...shall, upon request, provide technical assistance to Members in relation to the submission of the data required for the

Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers." In pursuance thereof, the Secretariat has started in 1998 a technical assistance programme for the PC IDB. Its continuation will cover:

- the dissemination and training on the PC software for submission preparation;
- conducting PC IDB workshops tailored to regional and/or national requirements;
- continued participation in WTO seminars to provide training; and pursuing the establishment of contacts in missions and national capitals.

During 1999 a number of developing countries which have not yet submitted their IDB data will probably be requesting assistance on the preparation of their IDB submissions. General information on IDB requirements would be presented, and contacts with national representatives for further follow-up and collection of data would be established, for implementation, if possible, on a regional basis.

During 1998 the Statistics Division participated in regional seminars in conjunction with other WTO divisions, principally with Market Access Division and in seminars for LLDCs countries. Given that the results of this collaboration were successful the intention is to pursue it.

Workshops exclusively on IDB matters would be undertaken in 1999 and 2000. These activities would target the officers responsible for the collection of customs tariff data and import statistics. The first one, will probably be addressed to ASEAN countries at the beginning of 1999.

3. Agreement on Textiles and Clothing

The progress achieved, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, in the integration process of international trade in these products to the multilateral rules means that this sector will be of increasing interest to developing countries, including the least-developed among them. Since technical cooperation is a demand-driven process, the Secretariat is not yet in a position to provide proposals for specific technical cooperation missions. However, the Secretariat stands ready in this area to organize, upon request, three regional or sub-regional seminars and three national seminars each in 1999 and 2000, covering the three broad regions of developing countries in the world.

Technical assistance and cooperation at the national level, both for Geneva-based delegations and for capital-based government officials, may also be undertaken.

4. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

At the 1998 Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange, a number of developing country Members indicated that they were experiencing problems with respect to raising national awareness among government agencies and industries of the TBT Agreement, and requested technical assistance in the form of workshops and seminars. In responding to that, the sub-regional seminars organized for the participation of officers who are involved in implementing the TBT Agreement, standards information and trade promotion, as described for 1998, would be continued. Taking into account the result of the 1997 First Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement, the regional seminars would be coordinated with other international organizations and special attention would be given also to the development of human and institutional resources, in particular, with respect to conformity assessment procedures.

5. Rules Agreements

5.1 Regional activities

A number of activities developed with regional financial institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) during 1996, 1997 and 1998 have produced positive results and demonstrated the usefulness of inter-agency cooperation. This collaboration is to be continued in 1999.

The project with the IADB includes three activities for 1999. Previous activities with Latin American and Caribbean countries have covered already a large amount of general issues. Moreover, as is the case in various Uruguay Round agreements, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures foresees transitional periods for developing countries for the dismantling of their subsidy programs and the aligning of their subsidy regimes with the disciplines of the agreement. Thus, an important component of assistance from 1999 onwards will be on subsidy disciplines. Activities will also concentrate on calculations of anti-dumping and subsidy margins, and the concept of injury.

5.2 Country Specific Workshops

This programme provides the opportunity of a more specialized assistance to Members. The issues to be dealt with in each workshop are coordinated with the government agencies receiving the assistance and are custom-tailored to their specific needs. Requests pending from 1998 will be attended to in 1999 and in 2000. Six country specific workshops are planned for 1999 and a similar number will take place in 2000. Details for 1999 can be found in Annex 1.

5.3 Other Assistance

Assistance on the preparation and review of draft legislation and regulations on contingent trade remedies is also available to Members. This is done strictly upon request by the Member desiring to adopt implementing legislation. Therefore, it is difficult to foresee the number of these types of programmes to be conducted in the next two years.

5.4 Seminars on Rules

In order to increase and enhance the participation of developing countries in the activities of the different committees of the rules agreements (Anti-Dumping, Subsidies and Countervail, and Safeguards), and to improve their response to their various notification obligations, the Secretariat will continue its assistance in the form of regional seminars in the area of WTO rules.

5.5 Accession Related Missions

The Rules Division envisions continuing its assistance to acceding countries. The purpose of this assistance is to clarify the rights and obligations in the rules area that the acceding country acquires upon accession to the WTO. It is difficult to estimate the number of missions in this area to be carried out since this is done strictly at the request of the Working Party on Accession of the particular country or the acceding country itself.

6. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

The focus of the Secretariat's technical cooperation activities specifically in relation to TRIPS continues to be on assisting Members to understand the rights and obligations which flow from the TRIPS Agreement. It is aimed at helping Members to assess the amendments that may be needed to their national legislation, the adaptations in institutions that may be called for and other requirements for which they would need to plan, and to train staff, both for these purposes and for the actual implementation of TRIPS consistent legislation in the fields of standards and enforcement. The purpose is also to assist Members to participate fully in the operation of the TRIPS Council, including to meet their procedural obligations under the Agreement, and the other mechanisms of the WTO related to TRIPS matters. The technical cooperation made available is essentially demand-driven, within the available resources. Importance is attached to ensuring complementarity and cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations, in particular WIPO. The main modes of supply of technical cooperation specifically relating to the TRIPS Agreement is information and advice given to Members in Geneva, seminars and workshops for developing countries, technical missions to individual Members, and, to a lesser extent, NGO conferences.

The Secretariat will follow up the Joint Initiative on Technical Cooperation to assist developing countries to meet their commitments under the TRIPS Agreement by the year 2000, launched by WIPO and the WTO Secretariats in July 1998. The joint initiative is being taken under the auspices of the Cooperation Agreement between the two Organizations. The joint initiative is intended to build on the existing cooperation between the two Organizations and their existing programs in this connection. Under the joint initiative, the two Organizations commit themselves to use available resources to provide, on request, assistance to enable developing country Members of the WTO to comply with obligations under the TRIPS Agreement within the applicable time limits. The two Organizations will provide technical cooperation, both individually and jointly, using both in-house resources and outside experts, and, wherever appropriate, in conjunction with donor countries. The joint initiative aims to facilitate enhanced utilisation of programmes both in respect of matters of substantive intellectual property rights and in respect of procedures and remedies for their enforcement.

Assistance given to other countries—in particular least-developed countries, which do not have to meet the year-2000 deadline—will not suffer as a result of the above-mentioned Joint Initiative. Priority continues to be attached to assistance to least-developed countries, and the results of the High Level Meeting on the Least-Developed Countries held at the WTO on 27 and 28 October 1997, are reflected in the number of activities organized for them from 1996 to 1998, and the two seminars planned for 1999.

7. General Agreement on Trade in Services

Technical cooperation activities in services are expected to hinge around four major issues: (i) implementation of existing commitments; (ii) ongoing negotiations under the GATS on rules, procedures and disciplines; (iii) facilitation of the accession process; and (iv) preparation of the new services round due to start in January 2000. Given already high demand for technical assistance in the past, and the possible increase associated with the new round, the Secretariat may be facing resource constraints. It is thus important that requests for assistance be forwarded as early as possible and, whenever feasible, be coordinated in the context of existing frameworks for regional trade and economic cooperation.

While predominantly demand driven, technical assistance in the area of existing commitments is expected to focus on the results of the extended negotiations on basic telecommunications as well as on entry into force of the Fifth Protocol, financial services, in early 1999. These activities are of longer-term relevance in particular for those countries that have made pre-commitments to be phased in over the coming years. Some Members not participating in the initial negotiations have recently shown interest in scheduling commitments in the areas concerned and may also request assistance. In addition, technical cooperation is intended to enable developing countries to participate effectively in the ongoing negotiations under Articles VI:4, X, XIII; XV and XXI of the GATS.

Assistance for accession countries generally aims to provide information on the principles and structure of the agreement, its main provisions, and the obligations incurred in scheduling commitments. The Secretariat has carried out various missions to acceding countries in 1998 and, given high continued interest by the administrations involved, is likely to receive additional requests in 1999 and beyond.

With the starting date of the new round approaching, the Secretariat also stands ready, as resources permit, to assist developing countries in preparing themselves for active participation. This implies identifying their own negotiating interests as well as interpreting, and effectively responding to, potential requests from trading partners.

As in the past, assistance will be granted in the form of both individual country missions and regional seminars for countries with a similar economic and institutional background. While country missions help to familiarise representatives from all interested ministries and agencies with relevant GATS provisions, regional seminars are a particularly cost- and resource-efficient way of informing selected country participants of the main features of the Agreement. To facilitate planning, it is necessary that potential hosts of such seminars indicate their interest in advance.

8. Trade and Environment

In 1998 the Trade and Environment Division held a total of seven regional seminars on trade and environment for developing and least-developed countries, in Asia, South America, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern and Central Europe. Representatives from both the Ministries of Trade and of Environment were invited to attend. The objective of the seminars was to inform developing countries on ongoing discussions in this area in the WTO, and of relevant GATT/WTO rules. In 1999, the Trade and Environment Division will continue to build on these seminars, through the organization of additional seminars (possibly seven) for a more in-depth examination of trade and environment issues. Issues of particular concern to different regions, such as the market access impact of eco-labelling schemes, or the environmental benefits of removing trade restrictions and distortions, will be addressed.

9. Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP)

A Joint Integrated Programme of Technical Assistance for Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries was launched in early 1996 by the WTO in collaboration with UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre. The specific objective of the programme is to assist least-developed and other African countries in the expansion and diversification of their trade and improve their integration into the multilateral trading system.

Areas where WTO is expected to make contributions for country projects in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and where activities will be continued from 1998 are:

- providing lecturers for training of trainers' courses;
- contribute to the establishment of National Reference Centres on the multilateral trading system (a Centre where documentation and information will be readily available to the public, business and academic communities in the country concerned);
- carry-out workshops to increase knowledge and understanding of the Uruguay Round Agreements;
- legal drafting or redrafting of legislation to comply with WTO Agreements, and assistance on notifications procedures and obligations;
- assistance to Customs Administrations; and
- studies on the impact of WTO Agreements on individual LDCs economies.
- PCs and connection to Internet, DDF, etc.

An important development under this programme is the fact that a Joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Trust Fund has been established, with voluntary contributions from a number of donor countries, thus putting this programme on a sustainable financial basis for 1999.

10. Least-Developed Countries

In the context of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance for Least-Developed Countries adopted at the High-Level Meeting for Least-Developed Countries held on 27 and 28 October 1997 in pursuance of the Singapore Ministerial Declaration, the WTO committed itself to a number of technical assistance activities to be implemented over the 1998 and 1999 period. The forthcoming report on technical cooperation to be presented to the CTD early in 1999 will contain information on the activities undertaken in 1998. Some activities that may already be foreseen for 1999, such as national "round tables" on trade-related technical assistance and regional seminars and short trade policy courses have been included in Annex 1. Additional activities which may be agreed upon shall be introduced at the appropriate time.

11. Accessions

At this point, it is quite clear that a great deal of work foreseen for 1998 will spill over into the technical assistance activities in 1999. It is expected that 1999 will be a particularly busy period in the accessions area and the demands for technical cooperation will be even higher as most acceding governments try to become members of the WTO before the turn of the century.

The demands on accession negotiations in general, both for existing working parties and any new ones that may be created, will become greater and more complex. From the end of 1999 and beyond, with the attention of WTO members focusing increasingly on the new negotiations in the WTO, the accession negotiations will have to take into account the issues being discussed in the context of multilateral negotiations. Consequently, the technical assistance needs and requirements of the acceding governments can be expected to increase during this period, and the Secretariat will be called upon to fulfil these to the maximum extent possible.

12. Dispute Settlement

12.1 Special Training Courses on Dispute Settlement Procedures

Special Training Courses on Dispute Settlement Procedures will continue to be organized by the Secretariat at WTO Headquarters. Three of these courses are foreseen for 1999. On request, these courses may also be organized in the field, on a national basis.

In view of the high demand for registration in these courses, the Secretariat envisages to continue, subject to the availability of appropriate funding, the programme of regional and subregional workshops initiated in 1998 for the training of government officials of developing countries on dispute settlement procedures and practices. A special component on dispute settlement and the way it connects together all of the WTO agreements is also to be included in the activities specifically directed at the least-developed countries.

12.2 Specialized legal assistance will continue to be provided to developing and least-developed countries, in pursuance of the provisions of Article 27:2 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures for the Settlement of Disputes.

13. Other Issues

13.1 Investment, Competition Policy, and Government Procurement

Paragraph 22 of the Singapore Ministerial Declaration states that the technical cooperation programme of the Secretariat will be available to developing and in particular least-developed country members to facilitate their participation in the new groups on the relationship between trade and investment, the interaction between trade and competition policy, and transparency in government procurement.

In the area of government procurement, and the areas of investment and competition policy (subject to the decisions that the General Council will take on how the work should proceed in these two areas in 1999), it is the Secretariat's intention that its technical cooperation programme will increasingly cover these matters, the objective being to provide information that will facilitate the participation of developing and least-developed countries in the work. Given the limits on the Secretariat's own resources, cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations, in particular UNCTAD, is a key aspect and recourse is also made to the use of outside experts. The focus is not only on government officials from capitals, through symposia, but also on Geneva-based delegations, through events in the Geneva area.

(a) Investment. In 1999, WTO plans to jointly organize with UNCTAD two seminars on investment for Geneva-based delegations and two regional seminars. The Secretariat plans to participate also in seminars wholly organized by UNCTAD at the regional and national levels, and in around six other regional or national seminars on investment organized by other institutions.

(b) Competition Policy. Two seminars for Geneva-based delegates and two regional seminars are planned to be jointly organized with other inter-governmental organizations. The Secretariat also plans to participate in conferences, seminars and other events on competition policy organized by other institutions.

(c) Government Procurement. The Secretariat plans to participate in a number of events, including regional seminars, conferences etc., on government procurement organized by other institutions.

13.2 Notifications Procedures and Obligations

The Secretariat will continue to give attention and respond to requests for assistance on notifications procedures and obligations. In 1999, one workshop will be organized in Geneva for Geneva-based delegations. Moreover, a module on these issues continues to be used in seminars and workshops on the WTO held at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Furthermore, the workshop organized in Geneva in December 1997 has been taped for a total of over five and a half hours of video material, and copies have been provided to Members. It is also readily available as an additional tool to assist developing and least-developed countries in their understanding of their notification obligations, and the procedures to be applied.

The Handbook on Notifications Procedures and Obligations, issued in 1996, will be updated in 1999 and disseminated as widely as possible among interested Member governments.

A CD-ROM version of the Handbook is also under consideration.

14. Activities Carried Out Using Information Technology Tools

Information technology is increasingly being incorporated into technical cooperation activities, in order to develop new and more efficient and cost-effective delivery instruments. The projects described below cover the period 1999–2001

14.1 Information Technology for Development Project (ITD)

The ITD project is a joint initiative of various Divisions within the WTO, with participation by the World Bank. Its aim is to apply a variety of information technologies for the development of training and information tools that support and extend the reach of technical cooperation activities.

a) The Trade and Development Web-site

Development and strengthening of the WTO/World Bank Trade and Development Web-site will continue during 1999. This will include setting up the WTO reference centres, providing internet linkages and training on Web sites for a number of countries as a follow-up activity to the LDC High-Level Meeting.

Specific enhancements to the joint site will include a special internet forum for participants in past WTO training courses. This forum will be accessible by password. It will enable participants in WTO trade policy courses to:

- obtain advance information to prepare themselves for training courses,
- conduct question and answer sessions with training course specialists to update and review course materials after they have returned to their ministries.
- participate in discussion forums designed specifically for trainees.
- provide feedback on training and other WTO technical cooperation initiatives.

b) Distance-Learning

WTO Computer-Based training (CBT): WTO experts regularly provide courses on the WTO agreements to participants in technical cooperation training activities. The objective of this initiative is to "capture" the essence of these training courses in a series of multimedia modules which can be accessed on CD-ROM and through the ITD web site. Each training module will focus on a specific WTO agreement. It will enable users to work with the course instruction in an interactive manner,

and will include a testing component that enables students to measure their progress in learning the subject-matter.

These multimedia training modules will be used as follows:

- As support tools for WTO training activities that complement classroom instruction by enabling students to review subject-matter using a computer-based training module with the ability to measure their progress. The testing capability integrated into each module can also be used on a Local Area Network. This means that the WTO training group will be able to monitor the test results of trainees to measure their progress.
- As stand-alone training tools that can be used anywhere in the world by officials needing to acquire a basic grasp of the various WTO agreements.

The ITD project, working with the training group, is also developing the means to enable trade officials in distant capitals to participate in training courses being given at the WTO using Internet web-casting. The use of this technology permits users world-wide to follow training courses live through a PC. It also enables them to access an archive file of the training course that will be stored on the ITD web site.

c) Video-Conferencing

Video-conference is a powerful tool that can be used for interaction between headquarters-based WTO experts and capital-based government officials and other interested institutions/individuals.

For instance, through the Internet, the availability of the WTO training package in the WTO web-site referred to above, provides the user in the field with the opportunity of interacting with Geneva-based experts either through electronic mail or, subject to the availability of adequate hardware and software, on a one-to-one basis in real time.

Video-conferencing through direct high quality video links has been used for advisory missions without leaving headquarters, and for complementing from Geneva mission teams which are already in the field. This modality could, in the longer term, also allow the organization of events at a regional level, without the need for any of the participants to leave their home countries, or any of the experts to travel from Geneva. A survey of existing and planned video-conferencing capacities around the world would have to be done, and a small meeting room at the Secretariat has been prepared with the appropriate equipment. This facility has already been used in 1998, and will continue to be used in 1999 and beyond.

2000

1. Agriculture and SPS Agreements

1.1 Agreement on Agriculture

In 2000, the Secretariat will continue to assist Members in implementing their specific commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture and to provide advice in the context of any changes in trade-related agricultural policies on the part of individual Members. The Secretariat will also respond to specific requests related to the negotiations in agriculture. As in previous years, the approach will be demand-driven. 5 to 6 country missions are envisaged, with preference being given to requests from Africa. Two regional workshops, focusing on the multilateral rules affecting trade in agricultural products and the work of the Committee on Agriculture are also envisaged (one in Africa and one in

Asia), with participation of both Members and acceding countries. Sponsorship of WTO participation of some Members in these seminars will be required.

1.2 SPS Agreement

In 2000, the Secretariat intends to continue the second phase of technical SPS Agreement related assistance, i.e. assistance focusing on specific national concerns and practical aspects of implementation of the SPS Agreement (enquiry points and notification authorities; risk assessment; methods of production (HACCP), etc.). It is envisaged to organize, or participate, in about six national or regional seminars, two in Africa, two in Asia and two in the Central/South American region. It is intended to couple the regional workshops with a subsequent national workshop in the respective host country. As on earlier occasions, participation of the private sector will be encouraged.

2. Market Access Issues

2.1 Tariff Schedules

Assistance will continue to be necessary for a number of developing countries in the African, Asia Pacific, Central and Latin American and Caribbean area in connection with the transposition of their pre-Uruguay Round Schedules into the Harmonized System and, in particular, with the introduction of the HS96 changes. Most likely the need for such assistance will be in the same range as for 1999. Assistance will also consist in establishing consolidated loose-leaf schedules of tariff concessions for a number of developing countries.

2.2 Agreement on Customs Valuation

For another 25 developing countries the delay period for the application of the provisions of the Agreement will expire in the course of the year 2000 or early 2001. Similar arrangements as in 1998 will have to be made on a regional and individual basis for those countries to assist them.

2.3 Agreement on Rules of Origin

If the Harmonized Work Programme is finalized by the end of 1999, most likely many developing countries will request assistance for implementation during 2000 and the following years.

2.4 The Integrated Data Base for Personal Computers

The activities described for 1999 would be continued.

3. Agreement on Textiles and Clothing

The activities described for 1999 would be continued.

4. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

The activities described for 1999 would be continued.

5. Rules

The activities described for 1999 would be continued

6. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

The Secretariat's intention is that its technical cooperation activities would broadly follow the principles set out in paragraph 6 under the 1999 section above. However, adjustments will be needed in the light of the fact that by 1 January 2000 most developing countries should already have brought their intellectual property regimes in line with their TRIPS obligations. This will mean that for this group of countries the emphasis will increasingly move to assisting them to participate fully in the operation of the TRIPS Council, including meeting their procedural obligations under the Agreement, and the other mechanisms of the WTO related to TRIPS matters, and also helping them to ensure that their legislation and procedures, including in the area of enforcement, are effectively implemented. For least-developed country Members, the focus will continue to be on assisting them to understand the rights and obligations which flow from the TRIPS Agreement, aimed at helping them to assess the amendments that may be needed to their national legislation, the adaptations in institutions that may be called for and other requirements for which they would need to plan, and training staff, both for these purposes and for the actual implementation of TRIPS consistent legislation in the fields of standards and enforcement.

7. General Agreement on Trade in Services

The Secretariat expects that the demand for technical assistance will continue to increase as the new round of services negotiations takes off. Countries may seek specialized assistance on individual areas where liberalization is likely to occur and/or where they need to specify their own positions. Support activities in this context may take various forms, focusing for example on the legal framework within which the negotiations proceed, on the economic and institutional conditions of the sectors affected and/or on past liberalization experience of comparable countries. At the same time, with various accessions being completed, the new Members are likely to request additional seminars for their staff. Further requests are expected to result from participants in regional economic integration agreements who are in the process of preparing themselves for negotiations under the relevant GATS provisions.

In the event of resource constraints, the Secretariat may need to consult with Members on their priorities.

8. Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP)

The activities described for 1999 would be continued.

9. Trade and Environment

The Secretariat's technical cooperation activities in this area would continue, subject to the decisions to be taken by WTO Members on the work that should be undertaken in the WTO.

10. Least-Developed Countries

The activities described under 1999 would be continued.

11. Accessions

The activities described under 1999 would be continued.

12. Dispute Settlement

The activities described under 1999 would be continued.

13. Other Issues

13.1 Investment, Competition Policy, and Government Procurement

The Secretariat's technical cooperation in these areas will depend on the decisions to be taken by the WTO Members on the work that should be undertaken in the WTO.

13.2 Notifications Procedures and Obligations

The Secretariat will continue to give attention and respond to requests for assistance on notifications procedures and obligations.

14. Activities Carried Out Using Information Technology Tools

The activities described under 1999 would be continued.

2001

Technical cooperation activities are continuously evolving. They have to adapt constantly, inter alia, to the needs of the recipient countries, to the situation of implementation of the WTO Agreements and to any further developments in the multilateral trading system.

Technical cooperation needs, both in the year 2000 and more so in 2001, will likely be determined, among many other considerations, on three specific factors: first, the expiration for some developing countries of the transition periods for the full implementation of some of the agreements; second, the processes of reviews and possible negotiations to be initiated in accordance with the "built-in" agenda of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round including, inter alia, the progressive liberalization of trade in services and the continuation of the process of reform in international trade in agriculture; and third on the decisions to be taken by WTO Members on future WTO work, particularly at the 1999 WTO Ministerial Conference in the United States.

These are some of the reflections that the Secretariat will have to take into account in the future drawing up of its programme for technical cooperation activities in the year 2001.

Annex 1-A. Activities Wholly Organized by WTO

Technical Cooperation Missions				Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
1.	20-Jan-99	23-Jan-99	Thailand Regional Seminar SPS	WTO	To be determined	European Commission	AgD	
2.	25-Jan-99	28-Jan-99	United Arab Emirates Technical mission Agriculture, TRIPS, Services and other WTO Agreements	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
3.	02-Mar-99	05-Mar-99	China, P.R. Regional Seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for Asian Developing Economies	WTO	Japan Fund/Hong Kong, China Fund		TCD	
4.	07-Jun-99	10-Jun-99	Lebanon Regional Workshop Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices for 19 Central and Eastern European, Central and Western Asian countries	WTO	Netherlands	IDB	TCD	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain*, Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Moldova, Oman, Qatar*, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates* *on a self-financed basis
5.	01/99		Congo Brazzaville National seminar Trade policy	WTO	To be determined		To be determined	
6.	01/99		Congo Brazzaville Needs assessment (January) Follow-up to Ministerial Conference	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
7.	02/99		Uzbekistan National seminar Customs valuation, TBT, SPS, TRIPS, and other WTO matters	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
8.	03/99		Asia Regional Seminar SPS (first week of March 1999)	WTO	To be determined		AgD	
9.	03/99		Africa National seminar SPS (second half of March 1999)	WTO	To be determined	USDA	AgD	

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Technical Cooperation Missions				Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
10.	03/99	Africa	National seminar SPS (second half of March 1999)	WTO	To be determined	USDA	AgD	
11.	03/99		Africa National seminar SPS (second half of March 1999)	WTO	To be determined	USDA	AgD	
12.	04/99		Venezuela Regional workshop Agriculture for the ANDEAN group (end-April 1999)	WTO	To be determined		AgD	Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela
13.	04-05/99		Uruguay Workshop on Issues on Electronic Commerce	WTO	WTO/TC		To be determined	
14.	04-05/99		Namibia National workshop Specialized workshop on Agriculture, including SPS	WTO	To be determined		To be determined	
15.	06-07/99		Venezuela National workshop WTO and the Multilateral Trading System Preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
16.	06-07/99		Colombia National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System Preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
17.	09/99		Africa National seminar SPS (second half of September 1999)	WTO	To be determined	USDA	AgD	
18.	09/99		Africa National seminar SPS (second half of September 1999)	WTO	To be determined	USDA	AgD	
19.	09/99		Africa National seminar SPS (second half of September 1999)	WTO	To be determined	USDA	AgD	
20.	10/99		Asia Regional seminar SPS for Asian countries (second week of October 1999)	WTO	To be determined		AgD	

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries	Comments
21.	Semester 1/99	Bangladesh National workshop on WTO rules (Safeguard measures, Anti-dumping and Countervailing measures)	WTO	To be determined		RD		
22.	Semester 1/99	Bangladesh National workshop Impact of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on LDC Trade and Economy	WTO	To be determined		TexD		
23.	Semester 1/99	Bolivia Regional seminar Agriculture	WTO	To be determined		AgD		
24.	Semester 1/99	Cuba Technical mission Agriculture and Services	WTO	WTO/TC		AgD/TSD		
25.	Semester 1/99	Cuba National seminar TBT	WTO	WTO/TC		TSD		
26.	Semester 1/99	Jamaica National workshop WTO and the Multinational Trading System Specific Agreements	WTO	WTO/TC		TCTD		Postponed from 1998
27.	Semester 1/99	Mongolia Technical mission on WTO rules Drafting of anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties Legislation	WTO	WTO/TC		RD		
28.	Semester 1/99	Mongolia National workshop Services sector	WTO	WTO/TC		TSD		
29.	Semester 1/99	Nigeria Technical mission Drafting of anti-dumping and related legislation	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD		
30.	Semester 1/99	Philippines National workshop Agreement on agriculture	WTO	WTO/TC		AgD		
31.	Semester 1/99	Philippines National workshop Implementation of Agreement on Subsidies	WTO	WTO/TC		RD		

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
32.	Semester 1/99	Papua New Guinea National workshop WTO agreements and notification requirements	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
33.	Semester 1/99	Colombia National workshop GATS	WTO	WTO/TC		TSD	
34.	Semester 2/99	Venezuela National workshop GATS	WTO	WTO/TC		TSD	
35.	Year 1999	Czech Republic Regional workshop Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices for 17 Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and Mediterranean countries	WTO	Netherlands Fund		TCD	Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Israel*, Kazakstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta*, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Uzbekistan *=on a self-financed basis
36.	Year 1999	Fiji Regional workshop Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices for 13 South Pacific Countries.	WTO/South Pacific Forum Secretariat	Hong Kong, China Fund		TCD	Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fed. States of, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue Island, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
37.	Year 1999	Morocco Regional workshop Dispute settlement procedures and practices for 25 French-speaking African countries	WTO	Hong Kong, China Fund		TCD	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia
38.	Year 1999	Tonga National seminar WTO and the multilateral trading system	WTO	New Zealand Fund		AccD	
39.	Year 1999	Namibia Technical mission Advisory mission to the Ministry of Trade	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
40.	Year 1999	Thailand Training course Introductory Dispute Settlement Course	WTO	No cost	Government of Thailand	TCD	

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
41.	Year 1999	Indonesia Training course WTO training course for Indonesian Customs Officials	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
42.	Year 1999	Mongolia Technical mission Establishment of WTO Reference Centre Electronic commerce	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
43.	Year 1999	Mongolia National Seminar Future Negotiation, Services, GSP, Rules of Origin, Multilateral Trading System	WTO	WTO/TC		TCD	
44.	Year 1999	Africa Regional Seminar TRIPS Agreement for Sub-Saharan English-speaking countries	WTO	To be determined		IPID	
45.	Year 1999	Africa Regional seminar TRIPS Agreement for Sub-Saharan French-speaking countries	WTO/WIPO	To be determined		IPID	
46.	Year 1999	Mongolia Technical mission Government procurement, Negotiating capacity-building, market access commitments	WTO/WIPO	To be determined		TCD	
47.	Year 1999	Tonga National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System	WTO	WTO/TC	TCD and other divisions		

Annex 1-B. Activities Organized Jointly with Others

Technical Cooperation Missions				Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
48.	16-Feb-99	19-Feb-99	Nigeria Regional seminar Trade policy-WTO and the Multilateral Trading system for ECOWAS Secretariat	WTO/ECOWAS	To be determined		TCD	
49.	08-Mar-99	15-Mar-99	Singapore Training course 2 nd Joint Singapore/WTO Trade Policy Course	WTO with Government of Singapore	WTO/TC	Gov't of Singapore	TCD	
50.	11-Oct-99	15-Oct-99	Australia Conference The international Food Trade beyond 2000; science-based decisions, harmonization, equivalence and mutual recognition	FAO/WTO	To be determined		AgD	
51.	03/99		South Africa National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading system Agriculture, SPS, TBT, TRIPS, future trade negotiations	WTO/Governm ent of South Africa	No cost	Government of South Africa	TCD	
52.	04/99		Colombia National workshop TRIPS	WIPO/WTO	To be determined		IPID	
53.	06-07/99		United States Regional workshop Three-week Advanced training course for government officials: English-speaking (13 countries)	OAS/WTO	To be determined	OAS	TCTD	Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts-OAS funding for government participants
54.	06-07/99		United States Regional workshop Three-week advanced training course for government officials: Spanish-speaking (19 countries)	OAS/WTO	To be determined	OAS	TCTD	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador,

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Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
55.	Semester 1/99	Bahrain Regional seminar Foreign Direct Investment and Multilateral Agreement on Investment for Arab countries	WTO/UNCTAD	To be determined		IPID	
56.	Semester 1/99	Cuba National seminar TRIPS	WIPO/WTO	To be determined		IPID	
57.	Semester 1/99	Tunisia National seminar WTO Rules	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund	UNDP	RD	Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries (JITAP)
58.	Semester 2/99	Bangladesh National workshop TRIPS (Copyright, patent, trade marks)	WTO/WIPO	To be determined		IPID	
59.	Year 1999	Argentina Regional workshop Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Calculations (advanced) for MERCOSUR and Chile (5) – Jun/Jul 99	WTO/INTAL	WTO/TC	INTAL	TCD	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts, Government participants funded by INTAL
60.	Year 1999	Argentina Regional seminar Market Access (Customs Valuation) – Sep/Oct 99	WTO/INTAL	WTO/TC	INTAL	TCD	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts, Government participants funded by INTAL
61.	Year 1999	Argentina Regional Workshop Agriculture for MERCOSUR and Chile and other Latin American members of Cairns group – Nov/Dec 99	WTO/INTAL	WTO/TC	INTAL	TCD	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts, Government participants funded by INTAL
62.	Year 1999	Guatemala Regional seminar Services for CACM and other Latin American countries (9) – Apr/May 99	WTO/INTAL	Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica		TCD	CACM: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua Other: Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
63.	Year 1999	Trinidad and Tobago Regional seminar Subsidies Disciplines and Notification Requirements for CARICOM (11) – Feb/Mar 99	WTO/INTAL	WTO/TC	INTAL	TCD	Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts, Government participants funded by INTAL
64.	Year 1999	Venezuela National workshop TRIPS	WIPO/WTO	To be determined		IPID	
65.	Year 1999	Mexico Regional seminar Injury Determination (advanced level) for ANDEAN Community and Mexico (6) – May/Jun 99	WTO/INTAL	WTO/TC	INTAL	TCD	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts, Government participants funded by INTAL
66.	01/99	Uganda Regional workshop Market Access Issues for East Africa (Customs valuation, tariffs, rules of origin, regional integration, PSI)	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		MaccD	JITAP
67.	01/99	Burkina Faso Regional workshop Market Access Issues for West Africa (Customs valuation, tariffs, rules of origin, regional integration, PSI)	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		MaccD	JITAP
68.	01/99	Africa Technical Mission Enquiry points in West Africa	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		To be determined	JITAP
69.	02/99	Cote d'Ivoire Regional workshop TBT, SPS, Quality management and certification, agriculture for East Africa	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		To be determined	JITAP
70.	02/99	Uganda Regional workshop TBT, SPS, Quality management and certification, agriculture for West Africa	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		To be determined	JITAP

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
71.	03/99	Ethiopia Regional seminar Trade Policy for ECA Member Countries (52)	WTO/Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	
72.	03-04/99	Madagascar (or Comoros) Regional seminar Trade Policy for IOC Member Countries (5)	WTO/Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
73.	04/99	Ghana Technical mission Implementation, Notifications	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP
74.	04/99	Cote d'Ivoire Technical mission Implementation, Notifications	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP
75.	04/99	Ethiopia (or Zambia) Regional seminar Trade Policy for COMESA Member Countries (17)	WTO/Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Dem. Rep., Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
76.	07/99	Benin National workshop Textiles	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TXD	JITAP
77.	10/99	Kenya National workshop Textiles	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP
78.	10-11/99	Africa Regional seminar Trade Policy for SADC Member Countries (12)	WTO/Southern African Development Community	To be determined		TCD	
79.	Semester 1/99	Burkina Faso Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session
80.	Semester 1/99	Uganda Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
81.	Semester 1/99	Ghana Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session
82.	Semester 1/99	Kenya Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session
83.	Semester 1/99	Djibouti Regional seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development) Member Countries (8)	WTO/IGAD	WTO (Additional budget)		TCD	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda Activity postponed from 1998
84.	Semester 1/99	Cote d'Ivoire Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session
85.	Semester 1/99	Tanzania Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session
86.	Semester 1/99	Benin Technical mission Customs valuation	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		MaccD	JITAP – First quarter 1999
87.	Semester 1/99	Benin Briefing WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for policymakers	WTO/UNCTAD/ ITC	JITAP Common Trust Fund		TCD	JITAP – 1-day session
88.	Semester 1/99	Switzerland Symposium TRIPS: Plant Variety Protection	UPOV/WTO	No cost	WIPO	IPID	
89.	Semester 2/99	Switzerland Symposium Specific Aspect of Technical Cooperation	WIPO/WTO	JITAP Common Trust Fund	WIPO	IPID	

		Technical Cooperation Missions		Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries	Comments
90.	Year 1999		Africa Regional seminar Trade Policy for English-speaking Western African states (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
91.	Year 1999		Africa Regional seminar Trade Policy for English-speaking Eastern African states (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
92.	Year 1999		Africa Regional seminar Trade Policy for French-speaking Western African states (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
93.	Year 1999		Pacific Regional seminar Trade Policy for the Pacific region (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
94.	Year 1999		Caribbean Regional seminar Trade Policy for Caribbean countries (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
95.	Year 1999		Africa Regional seminar Trade Policy for French-speaking Central African states (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
96.	Year 1999		Africa Regional seminar Trade Policy for Southern African states (ACP)	WTO/ACP Secretariat	EC Trust Fund		TCD and other Division		
97.	Year 1999		Switzerland Symposium Competition Policy for Geneva-based delegates	UNCTAD/WTO	To be determined	UNCTAD	IPID		
98.	Year 1999		Switzerland Symposium Competition Policy for Geneva-based delegates	UNCTAD/WTO	To be determined	UNCTAD	IPID		
99.	Year 1999		Six Regional Conferences, symposia and seminars on Government Procurement						

Annex 1-C. Activities Where WTO Was Invited to Attend

Technical Cooperation Missions				Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
100	11-Jan-99	15-Jan-99	Taipei, Chinese Training course International Trade Promotion Training Programme I: for Senior officers of Government Economic Agencies, Trade Promotion and Public Enterprises of selected developing countries – WTO and the Multilateral Trading System	International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF)	ICDF		TCD	No cost for WTO
101	25-Jan-99	29-Jan-99	Thailand Training course Trade Negotiations Simulation for six countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Mekong Institute	New Zealand Fund		TCD	Cambodia, China, People's rep. Of, Lao, P.D.R., Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
102	22-Feb-99	26-Feb-99	Spain Training course Agriculture: WTO and its Impact on Agro-food Marketing (13 countries)	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranea n Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)	WTO/TC		AgD/LegD	Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey WTO funding limited to participation of WTO experts
103	09-Apr-99	13-Apr-99	Taipei, Chinese Training Course Tax Policy and Economic Development for Middle to Senior-level officials of selected developing countries – TRIPS and GATS Agreement	International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF)	ICDF		TCD	No cost to WTO
104	15-Apr-99	25-Apr-99	Senegal Symposium 4 th Afro-Arab Trade Fair Technical mission on Implementation	OAU (Org. of African Unity)	WTO/TC		TCD	16-17 April: Trade and Industry days; 19 April: Culture day and Intellectual Property day

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
105	10-May-99	14-May-99	Taipei, Chinese Training Course International Trade Promotion Training Programme II: for Senior officers of Government Economic Agencies, Trade Promotion and Public Enterprises of selected developing countries – WTO and the Multilateral Trading System	International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF)	ICDF		TCD No cost to WTO
106	Year 1999		Mongolia Training course Tailor-made training programmes for Mongolian officials	Government of Mongolia / WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions
107	07/99		Thailand Training course 2 nd Trade Policy Course for the six countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Mekong Institute	New Zealand Fund		TCD Cambodia, China, P. Rep., Lao, P.D.R., Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam

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Annex 1–D. High-level Meeting Follow-up Activities

National Round Tables; Needs Assessment

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries	Comments
108	25-Jan-99	26-Jan-99	Haiti National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD	
109	02/99		Angola National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading system (in Portuguese) – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
110	Semester 1/99		Bangladesh National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD	
111	Semester 1/99		Bhutan National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	HLM Fund		TCTD	
112	Year 1999		Angola National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD	
113	Year 1999		Cambodia National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading system (week of 3 May 1999)	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
114	Year 1999		Chad National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD	

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries	Comments
115	Year 1999	Djibouti National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		
116	Year 1999	Gambia National Trade-related Round Table and Legislation Adjustment – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		
117	Year 1999	Mali National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		
118	Year 1999	Mozambique National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		
119	Year 1999	Nepal National Trade-related Round Table WTO and the Multilateral Trading System – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		
120	Year 1999	Niger National seminar (February)	WTO	To be determined		TCD		
121	Year 1999	Tanzania National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		
122	Year 1999	Western Samoa National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	New Zealand Fund		AccD		
123	Year 1999	Zambia National Trade-related Round Table – Follow-up to High Level Meeting	WTO	To be determined		TCTD		

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
124	10/99	Switzerland Training course 15 th Special Training Course on the WTO Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices (5 LDCs)	WTO	Norway Fund		TCD	
125	01/99	Nepal National Seminar Trade Negotiations	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
126	01/99	Bhutan National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
127	01-02/99	Togo National seminar Trade Policy	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
128	Semester 1/99	Burundi National seminar Trade Policy	WTO	To be determined		TCD	Activity postponed from 1998
129	Year 1999	Myanmar Technical mission Preparation of Trade Rules, Regulations and the Notification Requirements	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
130	Year 1999	Maldives National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
131	Year 1999	Bangladesh National workshop New Trade Issues	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
132	Year 1999	Western Samoa National seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System	WTO	To be determined		TCD	
133	Semester 1/99	Djibouti Regional seminar WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development) Member Countries (8)	WTO/IGAD	WTO (Additional budget)		TCD	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda Activity postponed from 1998

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High-level Meeting Follow-up Activities

Establishment of Reference Centres

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
134	Semester 1/99	Sudan Technical mission Establishment of WTO Reference Centre – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	Hong Kong, China Fund		SISD TCD	Postponed from 1998
135	Semester 1/99	Lesotho Technical mission Establishment of WTO Reference Centre – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	Hong Kong, China Fund		SISD TCD	Postponed from 1998
136	Semester 1/99	Sierra Leone Technical mission Establishment of WTO Reference Centre – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	Hong Kong, China Fund		SISD TCD	Postponed from 1998
137	Year 1999	Western Samoa Technical mission Establishment of WTO Reference Centre	WTO	To be determined		SISD TCD	Early 1999

High-Level Meeting Follow-Up Activities

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Regional LDCs

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
138	05/99	Tanzania Regional seminar Rules (safeguards, subsidies, anti-dumping) for English-speaking LDCs – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
139	09/99	Togo / Benin Regional seminar For French-speaking LDCs – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
140	Semester 1/99	Vanuatu Regional seminar WTO Multilateral Trading system for the 6 Pacific Islands. Follow-up to HLM	WTO	New Zealand Fund		TCD and other Divisions	(Cook Islands), Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Western Samoa With NZL consultant. POSTPONED from 1998!
141	Semester 1/99	Switzerland (Geneva) Training course Short Trade Policy Course for 24 English- speaking LDCs – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	Bhutan, Cambodia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Lao, P. Dem. Rep., Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia
142	Semester 1/99	Switzerland (Geneva) Training course 13 th Special Training Course on the WTO Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices (5 LDCs) – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
143	Semester 2/99	Africa Regional seminar TRIPS Agreement for French speaking LDCs – Follow-up to HLM	WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
144	Semester 2/99	Switzerland (Geneva) Training course 14 th Special Training	WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	

Technical Cooperation Missions			Organizer	Funding	Other funding	Execution	Participating Countries Comments
145	Semester 2/99		WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
146	Year 1999		WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
147	Year 1999		WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
148	Year 1999		WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	
149	Year 1999		WTO	To be determined		TCD and other Divisions	

Annex 2

WTO TRADE POLICY COURSES HELD IN GENEVA

The WTO Secretariat plans, organizes and ensures the running of residential trade policy courses (TPCs) in Geneva for officials from developing countries (regular courses) and economies in transition in the process of accession (special courses).

1. Overview

Developing countries

On an annual basis three regular courses of a twelve-week duration are held, one in French or Spanish and the others in English. The courses aim to widen the participating officials' understanding of the multilateral trading system and international trade law, and of the activities, scope and structure of the WTO, in order to enable them to improve the effectiveness of their work in their own administrations.

Course Calendar envisaged for 1999–2001

1999 Programme: (invitation circulars already issued to developing country Members and Observers)

- 10th WTO TPC: 11 January - 1 April (English)
- 11th WTO TPC: 26 April - 16 July (French)
- 12th WTO TPC: 13 September - 3 December (English)

2000 Programme: (dates of courses to be determined)

- 13th WTO TPC: (English)
- 14th WTO TPC: (Spanish)
- 15th WTO TPC: (English)

2001 Programme: (dates of courses to be determined)

- 16th WTO TPC: (English)
- 17th WTO TPC: (French)
- 18th WTO TPC: (English)

Economies in transition

In addition, the WTO Secretariat organizes shorter courses for officials from economies in transition which are in the process of accession to the WTO. Since 1991, 211 officials from the economies in

transition have been trained in trade, WTO and accession issues through special courses financed by Switzerland and the United States

Future calendar

For 1999 the WTO Secretariat is committed to organizing a further accession-related course on behalf of the Swiss Government from 6 to 30 April 1999 in Geneva. It is not possible at this time to give a precise picture of courses beyond 1999 in the absence of specific requests from sponsoring governments.

2. Training priorities

In order to improve the planning and delivery of trade policy courses the Secretariat has identified the following areas as priorities for improvement/development.

Candidate selection

The number of courses offered to developing countries increased from two to three in 1998 and the number of applications for each course is constantly growing. In order to meet this demand as effectively as possible, the WTO Secretariat is streamlining the process of administering applications. In addition, every effort is made to ensure that over a two-year period (in which 144 WTO fellowship places are available) every developing country Member and, where possible Observer, gets at least one place while strictly adhering to the well-established objective selection criteria. Course content and delivery

Increasing the amount of training has necessitated an effort to standardize at a high level of quality the key course elements which comprise:

- Lectures, presentation and discussions on trade theory, the formulation of trade policy, the provisions of WTO legal instruments and agreements emphasising the development dimension, implementation of WTO obligations, issues such as regional economic integration and the interaction between trade and environmental policies as well as the structure, scope and functioning of the WTO system. The Course will increasingly utilise information technology tools that participants have at their disposal including access to the WTO Website, Internet and the DDF. A prototype CD-Rom self-contained training package on the Textiles Agreement is ready to be tested by course participants.
- The presentations are complemented by practical work including round table discussions, case studies and the preparation and presentation of issue analysis papers on WTO subjects. Officials also take part in a workshop on negotiating techniques, and simulation exercises on trade negotiations, policy debate exercises and dispute settlement, in which they put into practice their knowledge of trade policy issues and develop analytical and negotiating skills acquired on the course. The programme includes visits to international organizations based in Geneva and attendance at meetings of WTO bodies, so as to allow the participants to observe the functioning of the WTO on the spot.
- There are also two study tours: one in Switzerland and the other in a European country which serve as case studies for national trade policy-making.

Evaluation and follow-up

Evaluation—identifying specific training objectives and then measuring how well the course achieves those objectives—takes place mainly through the preparation and discussion of evaluation reports done by the participants during and at the end of each course. These evaluations are an important factor in deciding on changes and improvements to the organization and delivery of the courses. A longer term evaluation system is also being developed to measure the effectiveness of the training activity in terms of identifiable improvements back on the job. Current efforts underway in the training area are described in Annex II of the paper *Evaluating Technical Assistance: Issues for Reflection*, (Job_no._4299).

3. Resource considerations

Budget

The financing of Regular Trade Policy Courses is ensured by the Regular Budget of the WTO, and the hosting of study tours by individual WTO Members. Twenty-four officials per Regular course receive WTO fellowships. On an annual basis 72 officials are trained for 12 weeks each, giving a total of 4,320 man-days of training provided by the courses.

In addition Special Trade Policy Courses, organized and delivered by the Secretariat using Members' Trust Funds, also take place. In 1998 for example, the Secretariat delivered a seven-week course on behalf of the Swiss government for 21 officials from Eastern and Central European and Central Asian Countries, giving a total of 735 man-days of training.

Human resources

The presentations and exercises are carried out to a large extent by Secretariat officials dealing directly with the respective subjects. "Outsourcing" is used whenever expertise is not available in-house: approximately twenty five per cent of each Regular course is performed by outside consultants/lecturers. In addition, twelve percent is delivered by experts put at the disposal of the WTO by other relevant international organizations (World Bank, WIPO, ITC, UNCTAD and ISO) within a context of expanding cooperation.

4. Future work

During 1999 the overall priority in the Secretariat is to consolidate its expanded trade policy course activities in terms of improving the quality of the content and delivery of the courses, developing and maintaining appropriate evaluation and follow-up practices and improving utilisation of new technologies for the benefit of course participants. The implementation modalities will guide the future work in this area.

2. World Trade Organization Technical Cooperation and Training

During 1997 a total of 229 WTO technical cooperation activities were conducted, an 85-percent increase from 1996. These activities were held in 106 countries, 79 of which were WTO Members, 21 in the process of accession, while remaining 6 were either observer or had expressed interest in joining the WTO. Out of the 106 Member countries, 94 were developing countries of which 14 were least developed. Many of the technical cooperation activities took place at the regional level, and several countries benefited from more than one activity when general dissemination seminars were followed up by technical missions and workshops. The majority of the activities consisted of participation in or contribution to technical cooperation workshops and conferences (78), technical missions (55), regional seminars (52) and national seminars (44). The activities were conducted either solely by the WTO Trust Fund or jointly in cooperation with other organizations.

Technical Cooperation Activities

Region	1995	1996	1997	Total
Africa	20	43	66	129
Asia	20	28	53	101
Europe	17	16	34	67
North/Latin America & the Caribbean	16	26	58	100
Middle East	6	11	18	35
Total	79	124	229	432

The subjects covered under the technical cooperation range as follows:

- Implementation of WTO obligations
- Information technologies for development project
- Notifications
- Dissemination of "Business Guide to the Uruguay Round"
- Dispute settlement
- Briefing sessions in Geneva
- Accession assistance
- Trade policy review mechanism
- Provision of technical information (trade data)
- The WTO - a training package
- High level meeting for least-developed countries
- Regional/national programs and special funded projects.

1997 WTO Technical Cooperation Activities in Africa

Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Symposium on International Trade
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seminar on the WTO and multilateral trading system ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet) ▪ Regional workshop on TRIPs ▪ West and Central African States Maritime Conference ▪ World Bank Round Table on Maritime Transports
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business Guide seminar with ITC ▪ Conference on Prospects of EU-ACP relationship
Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business Guide seminar with ITC ▪ Needs Assessment in preparation of high level meeting (HLM) for LDCs, ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet)
Cote d'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Market access ▪ GATS negotiations in progress for French speaking African countries ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet) ▪ Financial Services; preparation of schedules of commitments ▪ Preparatory meeting of francophone symposium on Trade Efficiency
Djibouti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs assessment in preparation of the HLM on LDCs
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the TRIPS agreement ▪ GATS negotiations in progress for Arab and African developing countries ▪ Tariff schedules, harmonized system and renegotiation under Art. XXVIII ▪ OECD Symposium on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment ▪ Symposium on "Challenges in Intellectual Property Protection: International Arab world Perspective"
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conference of African Ministers of Finance
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ African Regional HS Seminar by World Customs Organization ▪ Implementation of the UR agreement-customs/services/TBT ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet)
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in drafting of anti-dumping and countervailing legislation ▪ Implementation of the UR agreement-customs/services/textiles ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet)
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seminar on the WTO and multilateral trading system
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business Guide seminar with ITC ▪ Needs Assessment in preparation of HLM for LDCs,
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business Guide seminar with ITC ▪ Technical workshop on the WTO Agreements ▪ Financial Services; preparation of schedules of commitments
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business Guide seminar with ITC ▪ Workshop on private participation in Telecommunications ▪ Regional workshop on investment for African countries ▪ International Textiles Conference ▪ International Symposium on Human Resources and International Trade
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Market Access

Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seminar on the WTO and multilateral trading system
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPS
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Bank seminar on the WTO and Trade Policy in West Africa ▪ The WTO and the multilateral trading systems for Islamic Bank Members ▪ Rules: anti-dumping, subsidies, countervailing measures, safeguards ▪ Fact-finding mission (subsidies, anti-dumping, customs valuation and market access) ▪ International Conference: the implementation of Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substance ▪ Second African Forum on Mobile Radio-telecommunications & Technical Mission for the Drafting of Financial Services offer
Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministerial session of the Indian Ocean Commission
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GATS negotiation in progress for Southern African countries
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WTO/World Bank regional seminar on agriculture ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet) ▪ Regional Workshop on TRIPs ▪ Sub-Regional workshop on the national capacity in quality, standardization testing and metrology
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seminar on the WTO and multilateral trading system ▪ Business Guide seminar with ITC ▪ Agriculture (Islamic Development Bank) ▪ Union Internationale de l'Artisanat des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises ▪ Workshop on Notification Requirements ▪ Advisory Mission on the use of Computer Based System
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the UR Agreements ▪ Training on the use of technologies for development ▪ Establishment of a reference center (CD-ROM, Internet)
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture for Sub-Saharan Africa ▪ Telecommunications development in Sub-Saharan Africa ▪ WTO rules seminar ▪ Confederation of Zimbabwe Industry

3. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

A. THE OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES UNDERLYING THE REVISION OF THE PROJECT DOCUMENT

1. *Context and Background*

The project on *Capacity Building for Trade and Development in Africa* (RAF/96/001) (hereafter “the Project”) was approved in October 1997, with the aim of helping to build capacity in Sub-Saharan African countries to make their business sectors better able to exploit opportunities in the regional and global markets, and generally to make them competitive and dynamic participants in sub-regional, regional and global trade. At a meeting of OAU Ministers of Trade in Harare in April 1998, questions were raised about aspects of the Project. These were first, that the initiative appeared to be donor-driven; second, that implementation must ensure ownership by the countries affected; and thirdly, that the program needed to focus also on diversification and import substitution, in addition to export capacity.

In the light of these concerns and observations, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa appointed a team of three African experts on international trade and regional integration to review and revise the Project. Specifically, the team was to do the following:

- (a) to consult governments, key public institutions, experts, and private sector and civil society representatives in Sub-Saharan African countries involved in negotiating, managing, coordinating or otherwise dealing with issues of trade and regional integration;
- (b) to ascertain the levels of competence for capacity-building and technical assistance in respect of regional and global trade in as many institutions as possible in Africa and within the UN Agencies;
- (c) to visit as many countries in Africa as possible to consult them and their private sector and trade organizations and NGOs and find out their short-term and long-term capacity needs in the areas of regional and global trade;
- (d) on the basis of their findings in (a) (b,) and (c), to prepare for and convene a Special Preparatory Trade Forum (See Annex D) to be attended by representatives of African governments, regional and sub-regional institutions of economic integration, private sector organizations and NGOs, to discuss how the Project can best be implemented;
- e) on the basis of the outcome of the Special Trade Preparatory Forum, to streamline the modules set out in the Project document, revise and re-assign lead agencies within the UN system and in Africa, in order to reflect the technical assistance needs and competencies as reflected during the process of consultation; and
- f) to review and advise the UNDP on the time frame and composition of the services identified in the Project to reflect short-, medium- and long-term capacity and

technical assistance requirements in the areas of global and regional trade and economic integration in Africa.

2. Main Constraints Identified

The following categories synthesizes the findings on Africa's technical assistance needs as they emerged from the extensive consultations:

i) Immediate And Continuous Preparedness For Negotiations

There are on going trade negotiations on at the global level within the ACP-EU and WTO frameworks, and at the regional level in almost all the RECS. The main recommendation was that the Project should provide urgent support to these negotiators, in addition to the identified longer-term capacity-building requirements.

ii) Sensitization and Exposure to Current Rules of International and Regional Trade

The need for sensitize government officials, economic community officials, trade managers, business people and NGOs dealing with trade as to the content, objectives, opportunities and pitfalls, offered by sub-regional, regional and global trade agreements. Priority should be given to government and, economic community officials, trade managers, the private sector and NGOs charged with implementing the agreements and rules.

iii) Policy Formulation, Analysis, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

Given the Lack of effective institutional mechanisms for providing reliable and consistent policy advice to governments, parliament, and other key institutions handling policy, there is an immediate need for the development of training tools and implementation of training programmes on how to formulate, implement, and monitor trade policies and strategies.

iv) Negotiation Skills

The necessary data and information on which to base sound offers and counter-offers for the on-going regional and global negotiations is critically deficient, if available at all. Further, despite the existence of many skilled negotiators in Africa, negotiation skills are not widespread and systematized in the public system. Negotiation capabilities combining training in commercial and/or trade diplomacy with knowledge-led information and data needed to be prioritized in the programme for African capacity development.

v) Harmonization of Systems and Procedures

While the movement of persons within sub-regional trade blocs is becoming increasingly streamlined and harmonized, differentiated custom and administrative practices and procedures are serious non-tariff barriers to trade in all the major sub-regional economic communities. The Project should seek to facilitate closer networking between various trade blocs and the harmonization of procedures within and between blocs.

vi) *Trade Promotion Activities*

Almost all the countries visited have trade promotion bodies. 'Trade Points' are emerging in most of West African countries and Trade Promotion Centres are to be found most Eastern, Central and Southern African countries. There is a need for these institutions to be established where they did not exist, and existing ones strengthened by improving their information infrastructure and data management capacity, and thus help to modernize their methods, including marketing and trade promotion.

vii) *Information Networks*

Regional trade information networks are faced with the difficulty of maintaining and updating their databases. A need was widely felt for capacity building on how to develop, maintain, and update local and regional area networks and how to generate or stimulate demand for such information resources on a sustainable basis.

viii) *Linking and Coordinating Trade Initiatives*

RECs noted in addition to developing capacity for trade policy formulation, there is a need to create capacity the institutional capacity for continuous identification, articulation and achievement of trade policy goals. Hence special training focussing on identification, articulation, consensus building and resource mobilization capabilities in the area of trade policy management was recommended.

ix) *Entrepreneurship Training*

Most of the courses on entrepreneurship offered by chambers of commerce and trade points focused on traditional methods and mechanisms of delivery. A training for trainers course should be developed with the aim of upgrading their delivery methods so that they can reach out to more of their clients at lower than current costs.

x) *Long Term Courses on International Trade and Investments*

In order to create a critical mass of professional experts on regional and international trade and investment issues there is need to support undergraduate and graduate courses in the relevant fields. The Project be used to provide support for (i) the acquisition of books and journals in identified centers of excellence; (ii) acquiring and teaching aids; and (iii) facilitate networking of trainers.

xi) *Analytical Studies*

There is a severe shortage of regular sectoral, cross-sectoral, country and analytical studies needed to facilitate informed decision-making, fruitful negotiations and valuable training. A strong need was expressed for support to such studies.

3. Basic Guiding Principles for the Project Reformulation

i) Autonomous Development

For Africa to play its proper role in world trade it must have and apply the capacity to define and articulate its own development needs and choices, and to feed these into trade policy-making on a continuous and sustained basis.

ii) New Partnerships and Capacity building:

The reformulation of the Project, therefore, is guided by the concern to build up the capacity of African countries and institutions for autonomous generation of policy and delivery of training in the area of trade through new partnerships, based on collaboration and genuine transfer of knowledge and skills, and recognition and respect for the potential contribution of end-users.

iii) Role of UN Agencies

In recent years several outside agencies have developed material and mounted training programs aimed at helping to build up or strengthen African capacity to participate more fully in global trade. Prominent among these are UNCTAD, ITC, and WIPO. These initiatives have been, and continue to be, invaluable. The Project will therefore draw substantially on them and on the wealth of knowledge and experience they have built up.

iv) Training and the Transfer of Skill

Overall the technical assistance under the Project, will be complementary to African capacity and must involve a genuine transfer of knowledge and skills. To the largest extent possible, the Project will build upon trade capacity-building initiatives currently under way in Africa.

v) Lead Roles

Given existing competencies within African governments, organisations and institutions, the assignment of lead or co-ordinating roles to agencies and institutions under the Project takes into account the need for end-user ownership as well as cost-efficiency and sustainability.

vi) iii) Capacity-Building and Policy Flexibility

The assumptions about development that underlie the program of capacity building should not limit the freedom of African countries to choose and change the content and form of their trade and development policies. To that end, the design of the program, the material used and participation in its delivery should not be confined to any particular development paradigm or trading regime.

4. Modules, Objectives, and Activities

"Fast Track" Module: Support For On-Going Multilateral Negotiations

Implementing Agencies: OAU, UNCTAD, ACP Secretariat

Cooperating Agencies: AERC, RPE

Introduction

1. As originally conceived, a key concern of the Project was to improve Africa's capacity to secure the best conditions possible for its producers and exporters through effective participation in the negotiations that establish global trading regimes, particularly the negotiations within the World Trade Organization. The two- to three-year program of studies and training envisaged for this purpose under the Project has been rendered impossible as a result of the delay in starting the Project, and the imminence of substantive preparations for the next round of WTO negotiations. It should also be noted that the negotiation of the Lome V Convention is already under way. Thus, if the Project is to make a meaningful contribution to these two major trade negotiations, help to African negotiators must be provided as a matter of urgency, even before the current review of the Project is finalized and initiated.
2. The urgency of the situation was pressed upon the Review Team at a meeting of OAU Ambassadors in Geneva, an informal meeting with African ACP Ambassadors in Brussels, at the OAU and ECA in Addis Ababa, and throughout its field mission. The message in all cases was that to the extent possible support for African negotiators in the ACP-EU and WTO negotiations should be taken up separately, as soon after the field missions as possible. The Team shares fully the concerns unanimously expressed by these key representatives of the African trade negotiation effort. Fortunately, there are a number of significant initiatives already under way, upon which expeditious action could be founded.
3. At the 34th Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, and the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Economic Community (AEC), held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June 1998, African leaders took note of the capacity deficit in Africa's preparation for these international trade negotiations, and the need to ensure adequate preparation this time. In response, the OAU Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (ADB), constituted (a) a Joint Secretariat, and (b) a Panel of Experts/Advisers to provide administrative and technical backstopping to the African negotiators for the duration of the two sets of negotiations. Through these bodies, support has been provided for the preparation of the initial African positions for the Lome V negotiations.
4. The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), has completed a set of 8 framework papers, 7 country case studies, and 5 synthesis papers on Africa in world trade, as part of its collaborative project on "Africa and the World Trading System." These studies need to be supplemented by material on the legal and international relations aspects of international trade.
5. To meet the general concern for expeditious and comprehensive action, and building on these initiatives, the Team puts forward the following proposal for immediate implementation, pending the completion of its review and the reformulation of the Project. It should be emphasized that,

though thus hived off and proposed for advance implementation, the construction of this “Fast Track” Module is guided by the general principles underlying the entire review process, and meets all the basic criteria established for the purpose.

Goals

6. Urgent policy and technical support to African negotiators in preparation for the ongoing ACP-EC and upcoming WTO negotiations.

Immediate Beneficiaries

7. The African trade community and its negotiators.

Activities

8. Using consultants jointly selected by them, the OAU and UNCTAD will:
 - a. Prepare a synthesis of the thematic and country studies referred to at 4 above, and any other relevant material, particularly on the legal and international relations aspect, highlighting possible domestic and export interests of African countries in those sectors, and translating them into possible positions for the ACP-EU and WTO negotiations.
 - b. Organize two sets of sub-regional seminars during 1999 using material prepared under 4 and 8 (a) above, and any relevant material developed by the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Panel of Experts, and involving:
 - Set A. Government trade officials, Brussels-based African trade negotiators, private sector representatives of civil society, and aimed at assisting African governments in further refining their negotiating positions for the ACP-EU negotiations; and
 - Set B. Government trade officials, Geneva-based African trade negotiators, private sector representatives, and representatives of civil society, and aimed at assisting African governments in preparing positions for the WTO negotiations.

Organize two workshops for:

- Set C. The Brussels-based African trade negotiators and negotiators from the Caribbean and the Pacific on the trade and financing issues being examined in the ACP-EU negotiations; and
- Set D. The Geneva-based African trade negotiators and selected negotiators from key developed countries on the trade issues being examined in the various WTO for a to improve understanding and assessment of the interests involved.

In order to reinforce capacity at African educational and training institutions selected to conduct studies or training under other modules, one representative each of AERC and RPE should join the consultants undertaking the studies and training.

Timing

9. To ensure that the studies, seminars and workshops contributed to current and upcoming negotiations,
 - a. Preparation of Terms of reference should be completed by 30 April 1999;
 - b. Preparation of synthesis study should be completed by 31 May 1999; and
 - c. Seminars and workshops should start by 14 June 1999.

Module 1. Trade Policy Formulation and Coordination

Implementing Agency: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Cooperating Agencies: ESAMI, SARIPS, CECA, OAU and UNCTAD

Introduction

1. Many African countries are in the process of formulating policies on trade. In these endeavors some have been constrained by lack of adequate information and data on which to base choices. At the same time, there is lack of institutional mechanisms in the majority of countries for consultation across sectors when planning or formulating policy. In addition, even after policies have been formulated, the policy management structure does not provide enough opportunity for proper coordination. The various arms of the state are not adequately advised or given opportunity to share experiences or interact with the scientific community, policy groups, the private sector or civil society organizations.

Goal

2. An improvement in the content of trade policy through fuller consultation and coordination in its formulation, implementation and monitoring, and the exchange of experiences.

Beneficiaries

3. Policy analysts and trade advisers in government, the private sector and civil society organizations.

Activities

4. Survey of needs in the area of policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and coordination.
5. Development of training packages for policy workshops.
6. The organization of up to 15 workshops, delivered by national trainers using the training material developed under 5, as well as other available material, for up to 300 trade advisers and policymakers.
7. Four specialized workshops on policy formulation organized in each sub-region for 30 persons each year of the project.
8. Annual meetings between African sub-regional organizations and their counterparts in other parts of the world.

Outcome/Output

9. Each year, at least 120 policymakers from various sectors in each sub-region will be exposed to new methods of trade policy formulation, monitoring and coordination and staff of sub-regional organizations to the experiences of their counterparts in other parts of the world.

Module 2: Entrepreneurship

Implementing Agency: Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

Cooperating Agencies: SARIPS, ITC, the African Business Roundtable, and the Association of African Women Entrepreneurs

Introduction

1. Business people have a special role to play in meeting the challenges of regional and international trade, and thereby contributing to rapid national development. But the full realization of this potential is constrained by their limited appreciation of the rules of international trade, particularly the implications of the international trade regime for their day-to-day conduct of business. Again, official inattention to the large informal sector (dominated in many countries by women traders) in trade policy formulation means that the interests and productive potential of a substantial part of the business community are under-represented in official policy.

2. The Global Competitive Curriculum of the International Trade Center (ITC) is designed to provide the entrepreneur with understanding of the practicalities of organizing and managing an international enterprise. Also relevant is the Trade Tutor Team Building Programme, which includes the development of material for the business community. It is acknowledged that these materials need to be adapted to local conditions and local training capacity developed. It is, thus, necessary to adapt the material and identify and strengthen a network of local training centres whose work will focus directly on the needs of the business operator.
3. In the interest of sustainability, it is vital that further development of this initiative under this project involve some of the major African research and training institutions, which should, over the life of this project, assume increasing responsibility for the implementation of the program.

Goal

4. Enhanced appreciation by the African business community and its representative organizations of the international and regional trade regimes and how they affect their daily business activities.

Activities

5. A programming mission that aims to:
 - a. identify business-oriented training centers and facilities in selected African countries, and
 - b. assess the training needs of the local business communities, including the informal sector, particularly women traders, and their representative organizations.
6. The adaptation and extension of ITC's Global Competitiveness Curriculum and Trade Tutor Team Building Programme material, in light of the analysis of concrete local needs and facilities, and the translation of the material into French and Portuguese.
7. The training of 5 trainers for each country through the organization of workshops lasting a total of four weeks, supplemented by distance learning and supervised tasks—the trainers to be in charge of regular training and counseling.
8. The organization of national workshops, delivered by national trainers using the training material developed as above, for up to 200 business people, including those in the informal sector.

Expected Outcome/Output

9. Training material adapted to the specific needs of the African business community.
10. National business-oriented training institutions identified and strengthened.
11. A cadre of national trainers equipped to deliver the above training material.
12. Up to 200 business people trained.

Module 3: Civil Society Organizations

Implementing Agency: Third World Network (TWN) (Accra)

Cooperating Agencies: IPS (Harare), ENDA (Dakar)

Introduction

1. One of the shortcomings of development policy formulation in African countries has been the absence of effective input by the broad citizenry in the discussion, adoption, implementation, and monitoring of economic policy. This reduces the opportunities for the interests and perspectives of broad sections of the population—especially vulnerable groups like women, the poor, and working people—to inform the choices, the distribution of costs and benefits, and the necessary trade-offs attendant upon the design and implementation of economic policy. This marginalization of large sections of society denies social legitimacy to national policy, and limits its base of support and its effectiveness.

2. This argues for a more active advocacy role for the organized sections of civil society. Yet these organizations suffer from major capacity deficits, arising from both inadequate access to information and appreciation of the critical issues of trade policy, and limitations on their advocacy and lobbying skills. Thus, for them to be able to influence the policy debate and ensure effective implementation, it is necessary to strengthen their human and institutional capacity in these vital areas.

Goals

3. Enhanced civil society knowledge about the international trade and investment regime, and greater information sharing and advocacy cooperation among civil society organizations in Africa.
4. Enhanced civil society capacity for policy dialogue with trade and investment policy-making institutions at national, regional and international levels.
5. More active and structured relations between African civil society organizations and regional and sub-regional bodies in matters relating to trade and investment policy.

Beneficiaries

6. African NGOs, other civil society organizations, and media personnel.

Module 3 A. Trade Policy Network

1. Identification and structuring of a network of focal NGOs—definition of principles and procedures.
2. Training of trainers on trade policy, with support from UNCTAD (see Module 4): 8 journalists, 8 NGO persons, and 8 trade unionists.
3. Four sub-regional workshops on trade policy and advocacy.
4. Four sub-regional workshops for economic journalists.

Module 3 B. Access to Information on Trade-related Issues

1. Establishment of a trade-oriented Website at TWN, and support for the expansion and maintenance of existing sites at IPS and ENDA.
2. Strengthen the links for regular exchange of trade-related information between African NGOs and other institutions.
3. Facilitate the establishment of communication channels among African networks (regionally) and with their international counterparts including with international trade organizations.

Module 3C. Production and Dissemination of Information on Trade-related Issues

1. Facilitate the undertaking of participatory research to explore civil society perspectives on trade-related issues, to be undertaken by four teams selected on a competitive basis, one to each sub-region.
2. Support the publication of an annual newsletter through and its dissemination of the results of the research and other relevant material developed under 14) above.
3. Periodic sub-regional workshops on advocacy and lobbying, using results of information based on the 14) and 15).
4. Facilitate participation of TWN/IPS/ENDA in four relevant international, regional and sub-regional conferences and seminars on trade and trade-related issues over the life of the project.

Expected Outcome/Output

5. A broadly stable network of NGOs, trade unionists and journalists knowledgeable about trade and investment issues.
6. The mainstreaming of critical understanding of the trade and investment needs of African economies and of relevant aspects of the WTO, ACP-EU, and African regional trade regimes.
7. A more organized civil society advocacy role and contribution to the exchange of ideas on trade policy and its impact, especially on the vulnerable, the environment, and other related areas.

Module 4: Training of Trainers

Implementing Agency: UNCTAD

Cooperating Agencies: AERC, IDEP

Introduction

1. The internalization of trade-related capacity within Africa will require widespread strengthening of the knowledge and skill base of the trade community in Africa. A key component will be continuous training, both general and targeted, for policy-makers, business people, and representatives of civil society in a wide range of areas related to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of more effective trade and development policies and strategies. To be sustainable, most of this training will have to be delivered locally by local people and institutions. For that, a number of sub-regional and national institutions, and a cadre of trainers, will have to be identified and prepared.
2. Through its Train-for-Trade program, UNCTAD has been developing training tools for disseminating knowledge of the rules and disciplines of the multilateral trade agreements and of their implications for policy-makers and other participants in the policy-debate under the broad label of "Commercial Diplomacy." A main focus of the program is to strengthen analytical and policy-making capacity about the multilateral trading system.

Goal

3. This module is aimed at forming a networked cadre of African experts able to run training programs on subjects related to the multilateral and regional trading system. The training provided under this module will be supplemented as necessary by training under specialized modules.

Beneficiaries

4. Persons selected to run training or sensitization courses under this project.

Activities

5. Assessment of the training needs and the identification of training institutions and course leaders in selected countries. The institutions would include universities and business or management training institutes.
6. The identification of subjects to be covered in the curriculum, on the basis of the training needs assessment.
7. The adaptation of the UNCTAD training material to the African trade environment by integrating case study material directly relevant to the African experience, and the development of new courses/training packages to address identified needs not covered by existing course material.
8. The organization of a series of workshops for the training of up to 60 course leaders for policy-related courses, 60 course leaders for trade-operations related courses, 30 course developers and 15 human resource development managers who will be in charge of the implementation of the training programs. The workshops are to be organized as follows: three two-week workshops for

course leaders; two two-week workshops for course developers; and one two-week workshop for HRD managers.

Outcome/Output

9. A network of African experts able to run training programs on subjects related to the multilateral and regional trading system.

Module 5. Trade Information Management and Networking

Implementing Agency: ITC/UNCTAD

Cooperating Agencies: OAU, African Regional Trade Points Fora, African Federated Chambers of Commerce, UNECA

Introduction

1. The global economy is increasingly dominated by the holders and brokers of information and knowledge. African countries, with the possible exception of South Africa, are not only late entrants into the information society, but are still net consumers of the information and knowledge developed by other communities and sold to them at a premium. If Africa is to become a player in the global information society, she has to build up capacity to generate its own information about its own systems of power, production and services and make it part of the global information resources. In building up capacity to do this, care must be taken to strengthen, not duplicate ongoing initiatives such as Trade Points, TINET, SEGA-TOPS, and related UNDP-funded projects.
2. To enhance African capacity for information production and management at local, national and regional levels, and the building up of trade information services and networks.

Beneficiaries

3. Information providers, trade managers, businesses, private sector and civil society organizations, national governments, and regional economic bodies.

Activities

4. Assessment of information and training needs of African traders at national and sub-regional levels.
5. Design of curricula and training materials on the production, management, dissemination and utilization of trade information.
6. Organize four training workshops and four refresher courses for specialist trade information providers at sub-regional level.
7. Structure and Implement a follow-up programme to track the reintroduction of trainers to their places of work provide backstopping for the adoption of improved information management practices by the trainees institution.
8. Undertake a mission to assess the support requirements of African trade promotion centers, including Trade Points.
9. Based on 8) design and implement a programme aimed to support to the trade promotion centers and trade points focusing on training on information and data gathering techniques and information management.

Outcome/Output

10. A clear picture of the skills available or needed in the area of information development and management.
11. A critical mass of up to 100 experts from RECs, government, the private sector and civil society institutions conversant with modern techniques of trade information development and management.

12. Better organized and managed trade information resources and networks.

Module 6. Intellectual Property

Implementing Agency: ARIPO, in association with OAPI

Cooperating Agencies: University of Dar Es Salaam, University of Ghana, University of Lesotho, University of Yaounde, and WIPO

Introduction

1. Intellectual property laws play a role in promoting creativity and innovation in production and services. At the same time they can be used to suppress technology transfer or innovation. Again, unless they are adequately managed, they can be abused by innovators and inventors and facilitate a drain of Africa's resources, especially in the area of biotechnology and genetically engineered organisms. In the context of global and regional trade, there is need, therefore, for both awareness and training to enable African communities and institutions to benefit from their national resources by using copyright, patents, trademarks, etc., as instruments of development and change.

Goals

2. Enhancement of general awareness of the rules governing intellectual property, including such new areas as biotechnology, bio-ethics, and bio-policy.
3. Build up Africa's capacity to train specialists in intellectual property.

Beneficiaries

4. Policymakers, entrepreneurs, researchers and universities.
5. Two-week annual planning and curriculum development and innovation workshops for ten lecturers who will deliver the training programs.
6. Short seminars for policymakers in government, regional economic communities, and private sector representatives, on TRIPS and other intellectual property issues (20 persons x 4 in each of the universities every year of the project period).
7. Public lectures and seminars on general issues of intellectual property.
8. Workshops by each university on bio-policy, bio-ethics and biotechnology for researchers and scientific personnel in biotechnology research and bio-diversity management every year (80 people per year) of the project period.
9. Acquisition of journals, books, and teaching aids by the four universities to strengthen course delivery at university level.

Outcome/Output

10. A core of staff in the four universities delivering course in intellectual property and related matters.
11. Development of course materials and support for libraries.
12. Up to 80 professionals trained through short courses on TRIPS and related issues.
13. Biotechnology and bio-diversity researchers and developers conscious of bio-ethics.
14. General popular awareness of issues of intellectual property.

Module 7. Analytical Studies

Implementing Agency: CODESRIA

Cooperating Agencies: ESRF, IPAD, ISSER, NISER

Introduction

1. Among the most critical problems confronting African countries in the formulation and implementation of effective trade policy, and international negotiations is the weakness of the analytical basis for these vital activities. African capacity to define and defend its place in global trade requires a full appreciation of its economic and social condition, which turns crucially on access to and full utilization of knowledge and insights derived from analytical studies which in other regions are taken for granted. While there are many sound studies on the background and conditions of African trade, there is need for a medium-term program for the systematic production and dissemination of both general and sectoral studies on aspects of African regional and international trade.

Goal

2. The production of analytical studies relevant to the understanding of the conditions, opportunities and challenges of Africa in respect of trade both within the continent and in the global arena, and their systematic infusion into policy-making and implementation.

Activities

3. Support for the preparation of analytical studies on selected themes, including the following suggested topics:
 - Africa's international competitiveness and market share—factors promoting or inhibiting growth.
 - Intra-African trade—strategies for removing constraints and promoting growth, and best practice from regions such as Asia and Latin America.
 - Fostering private entrepreneurship in trade—the role of public-private sector partnerships.
 - Analytical research on key issues under discussion and negotiation within WTO, ACP-EU, and the RECs.
4. The reduction of the outcome of the studies into policy papers for the use of policy-makers, entrepreneurs, NGOs and other members of the trade community.
5. The dissemination of the product of this module and its systematic feeding into other activities under the project.

Expected Outcome/Output

6. A body of research-based material and policy papers on African regional and institutional trade.
7. An enrichment of the sensitization and training programs under the project.
8. The supply of quality material on African regional and international trade to educational and research institutions in Africa and elsewhere.

Module 8. Support for University Courses in International Trade and Development

Implementing Agency: Association of African Universities (AAU)

Cooperating Agencies: African university networks

Introduction

1. There is a fundamental need for sustained and original thinking about issues of trade and development in Africa. Such thinking must be informed by sound knowledge of the international trading system as well as a full appreciation of national development needs. This calls for more than the conventional courses on trade and trade law run by faculties of economics and law at

many African universities. What is needed are disciplinary and cross-disciplinary courses and programs that bring together the relevant aspects of international production and exchange. The development and delivery of such courses and programs can over time produce a core of African specialists capable of originating ideas on issues of trade and development.

2. While the project cannot support the establishment or maintenance of full programs, it could (a) promote the transformation of existing programs in selected universities by funding curricular reforms, journal subscriptions and the acquisition of books and other teaching material, and (b) facilitate collective exploration of more far-reaching options, for instance, through the pooling of resources by African institutions. In the latter connection, advantage might be taken of a recent initiative of the Association of African Universities (AAU), aimed at promoting regional cooperation in graduate study. Under the project, faculties and departments in its over 140-member universities were invited to submit proposals, on a competitive basis, for running graduate degree courses in any field, through cooperation with other African institutions. These courses draw students and faculty from all participating universities. Proposals received from a variety of fields were carefully vetted by an expert panel appointed by the AAU, and after revision, submitted to donors for support. There will be value in inviting proposals for a joint graduate program in International Trade Policy and Negotiation using the processes and experience built up under the AAU project.

Goal

3. The production of a cadre of international trade specialists able to generate original ideas on trade policy and implementation, run tertiary-level programs and advise policy-makers and managers in the public and private sectors, at national and regional levels.

Beneficiaries

4. In the immediate term, faculties and departments of economics, commerce, and law in the selected institutions, and their students.

Activities

5. (i) Assess the curricular, staff and material needs of African university faculties and departments running courses and programs relevant to regional and multilateral trade, (ii) on a competitive basis, identify one faculty or department in each sub-region, and (iii) provide support for curricular reforms, journal subscriptions and the acquisition of books and other teaching material.
6. Using the processes developed under the AAU project, encourage African universities to form networks for the development and running of joint graduate programs on regional and international trade issues, including negotiations.
7. Provide support for curriculum development, journal subscriptions, the acquisition of books and other teaching material, and staff exchanges for one such network selected on a competitive basis.

Outcome/Output

8. Strengthened undergraduate courses/programs on regional and multilateral trade at one institution in each sub-region.
9. One effective regional graduate program on regional and multilateral trade issues, including negotiations.
10. A pool of African trade specialists able to infuse original ideas and informed advice into regional and multilateral trade policy formulation, implementation and negotiations, and to run tertiary and other teaching programs.

Module 9. Special Support for Countries Seeking to Join the WTO

Implementing Agency:—ECA

Cooperating Agency:—UNCTAD

Introduction

1. A number of African countries are in the process of negotiating their accession to the WTO, or have expressed an interest in doing so. As accession negotiations pose particular problems beyond those addressed in other modules of this project, such countries need special and urgent assistance in preparing for and undertaking those negotiations.

Goal

2. Helping African countries seeking membership of the WTO to enter on the most advantageous terms possible.

Beneficiaries

3. African countries currently seeking accession to the WTO.

Activities

4. Undertake consultations and studies to help countries currently seeking or contemplating membership of the WTO to appreciate the full implications of WTO membership, and to identify and articulate sound negotiating positions.
5. Conduct two two-week training courses for trade policymakers and negotiators from those countries.
6. Provide technical advisory services in the conduct of the negotiations.

Expected Outcome

7. Effective and successful accession negotiations by African countries joining the WTO

Module 10. Singapore Based Trade Training Programme

Implementing Agency: Government of Singapore

Cooperating Agency:—UNOPS

Introduction

1. During the WTO High Level Ministerial Meeting convened in Singapore the organization urged member states, and particularly the developed countries, to provide greater support to Less Developed Countries (LDCs) in meeting their WTO obligations and strengthening their participation in WTO.
2. As a direct result of this undertakings, the Government of Singapore undertook to organize training courses to increase the capacity of trade officials from the Government, NGOs interested and participating in trade related discussions, and the private sector from Sub-Saharan countries.
3. Note should be made that these training courses, while reviewed by the review team, were not subject to the revision of the project document and continued while the overall thrust of the project was under revision.
4. The training courses to be organized by the Government of Singapore were to be the countries contribution to the development of African capacity and are cost shared with the UNDP project. The Government of Singapore provides the training free of charge to African participants while the UNDP has undertaken to bear the costs of travel and subsistence allowance for the participants.

Goal

5. To provide WTO related training courses to selected African participants from Sub-Saharan Africa in order to develop the technical capacity of African countries to meet their obligations under WTO, promote Africa's exports and enhance foreign direct investment.

Beneficiaries

6. Trade officials from the Government, NGOs interested and participating in trade related discussions, and the private sector from Sub-Saharan countries.

Activities

7. Organize a set of four training courses per year for the duration of the project through Singapore based training institutes on the following subjects:
 - a. Export market promotion
 - b. Foreign investment promotion, and
 - c. Trade and development
8. Invite and select twenty Africa officials from government, civil society organizations and the private sector for each of the training courses ensuring that the participants and their respective organizations will fully benefit from the training programmes.
9. Following each training course evaluate the impact and design of the training to ensure responsiveness to African needs.

Expected Outcome

10. African government, NGO and private sector officials exposed to WTO trade issues, the Asian experience in export promotion and key requirements for attracting foreign direct investment.

4. United States Agency for International Development

USAID BUREAU FOR AFRICA WHO'S WHO IN THE FIELD USAID MISSION DIRECTORS AND DEPUTIES

Country	Director/Deputy	Office Telephone Numbers
Angola, Luanda	Keith Simmons	244-2-399518, 399519, 399520
Benin, Cotonou	Thomas Park	229 30-05-00, 30-09-52
Eritrea, Asmara	William Garvelink	291-1 12-05-19, 12-21-33, 12-65-46
Ethiopia, Addis Ababa	David Eckerson (Acting)	251-1 510-088, 510-852, 510-851
Ghana, Accra	Frank Young	233-21 228440, 231938, 231939
	Jay Knott	770285, 286, 287, 289, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296
Guinea, Conakry	Harry Bimholz	224 412029
Kenya, Nairobi	Jonathan Conly	254-2 751-613
Liberia, Monrovia	Rudolph Thomas	231 226370, 226371, 226372, 226373
Madagascar, Antananarivo	Karen Poe	261-20-22- 25489
Malawi, Lilongwe	Kiertisak Toh	265 782455, 782197
Mali, Bamako	James Hradsky	223 224542, 223602
	Paul Tuebner	
Mozambique, Maputo	Cynthia Rozell	258-1 490726
	David Hess	
Namibia, Windhoek	Carol Scherrer-Palma	264-61 225935
Nigeria, Lagos	Thomas Hobgood	234-1 614412, 2614621
Rwanda, Kigali	Richard Goldman	250-73251,52,53, 74719, 75746
East & Southern Africa (REDSO/ESA)	Donald Mackenzie	254-2 751-613
	Steven Wisecarver	
Regional Center, Southern Africa (Gaborone)	Ed Spriggs	267- 324449, 353382
	Anthony Vance	
Republic of South Africa (Embassy, Pretoria)	William S. Rhodes	27-12-3238869, 3421048
	Henry Reynolds	
Senegal, Dakar	Donald Clark	221 823-6489,823-6249
	Allan Reed	823-5880
Tanzania, Dar es Salaam	Lucretia Taylor	255-51 117537,117538, 117539, 117540, 115374
Uganda, Kampala	Dawn Liberi	256-41 242896, 258124,
	Patrick Fleurent	235879
Zambia, Lusaka	Walter North	260-1-254-303/304/305/306,
Zimbabwe, Harare	Rose Marie Depp	263-4 720757, 720630, 720-739

5. Bundesministerium Für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit–BMZ (Ministry for Economic Cooperation)

TRADE-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The overview is preliminary. As to category 3 the listed TA is restricted to directly trade-related projects/programmes.

Trade related technical assistance aimed at a better understanding and use of WTO rules

Capacity building for the New Round (preliminary title)

Objective: To improve the capacity of DCs to negotiate and implement new rules

WTO-agreement or rule: Approach will be formulated until October 1999

Amount of Funding: DM 1 million

Type of Funding: Multilateral (WTO)

World Trade Net–Business Development and the WTO Agreements

Objective: To strengthen local capacities in the assessment of trading opportunities

WTO-agreement or rule: Wide range of WTO-Agreements

Amount of Funding: About DM 1.5 million

Type of Funding: Multilateral (ITC)

Trade related technical assistance aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to adopt and implement domestic laws and regulations in order to fulfil WTO obligations and to develop a framework for regional integration

Contribution to the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Tanzania

Objective: To assist the authorities in the adaptation of national trade policies and rules in order to fulfil WTO obligations and to use and improve the domestic export potential

Amount of Funding: DM 1 million

Type of Funding: Multilateral (WTO, UNCTAD, ITC); the project complements a bilateral project in the area of private sector development

Contribution to the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Uganda

Objective: To assist the authorities in the adaptation of national trade policies and rules in order to fulfil WTO obligations and to use and improve the domestic export potential

Amount of Funding: DM 1 million

Type of Funding: Multilateral (WTO, UNCTAD, ITC); the project complements a bilateral project in the area of private sector development.

Assistance to the East African Community

Objective: To assist the EAC-Secretariat in the promotion of regional integration within the community

Amount of Funding: DM 3 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Improving the integration of LLDCs in the world market in view of WTO

Objective: To strengthen the ability of the relevant authorities in the DCs (ministries of agriculture and trade) to participate in multilateral trade negotiations and to adapt local policies in order to maximise the benefit (or minimise the risk) of new trade agreements

Amount of Funding: DM 1,1 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral (planned)

Trade related technical assistance aimed at enhancing the ability to trade of a given sector, country or region through supply-side reforms

South-South Trade Cooperation

Objective: To promote regional integration through the identification of regional trading opportunities, detailed field research, the organisation of negotiation platforms and the adaptation/design of promotion tools

Amount of Funding: DM 2 million

Type of Funding: Multilateral (ITC)

Product- and Marketing–Agriculture -

Objective: Introduction of agricultural products into German market (coping with the EU quality requirements)

Amount of Funding: DM 1.9 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Product- and Marketing–Textile -

Objective: To enable enterprises to develop their business relations with the German import industry

Amount of Funding: DM 2.3 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Product- and Marketing–home accessories, gifts and toys

Objective: Introduction of the relevant products into the German market (meeting with EU quality standards) and establishment of business relations with the German import industry

Amount of Funding: DM 0,67 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Product- and Marketing–technical products

Objective: Introduction of the relevant products into the German market (matching EU quality standards) and establishment of business relations with the German import industry

Amount of Funding: DM 2.99 million

Type of Funding: bilateral

Trade Promotion for Organic Agricultural Products

Objective: Promotion of agricultural products certified under EU law as organic agricultural products

Amount of Funding: DM 2 million

Type of Funding: bilateral

European African Cooperation for Handicrafts

Objective: To promote export development in the handicraft sector

Amount of Funding: DM 2.2 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Export Competitiveness and Technical Barriers to Trade (Romania)

Objective: To support Romanian institutions and enterprises in improving their technological competence and in matching the EU-Standards

Amount of Funding: DM 2 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Reform of Turkish Patent System

Objective: Modernisation of patent institutions matching the requirements of the Turkish business sector

Amount of Funding: DM 4 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Business and Export Promotion in Guatemala

Objective: To increase and to diversify non-traditional exports of the SME-sector

Amount of Funding: DM 3 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Assistance to the Consumer Organisation of Macedonia

Objective: To improve the efficiency of consumer protection system

Amount of Funding: DM 1,6 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Promotion of Eco-Shrimps Production and Export in Ecuador

Objective: To support the production and export of certified „Eco-shrimps“

Amount of Funding: DM 0,1 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral (private contribution of German import enterprise)

Industry and Export Promotion - ESCAP

Objective: To improve export competitiveness of SMEs in LDCs and countries in transformation (in particular by assisting them in the area of quality management, marketing and financing)

Amount of Funding: DM 6,45 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral Assistance to the SADC-Secretariat

Objective: To increase growth and to alleviate poverty by fostering regional integration

Amount of Funding:

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Advisory Service for Private Sector in SADC

Objective: To increase growth and to alleviate poverty by fostering regional integration

Amount of Funding: DM 6 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Investment and Trade Promotion in Côte d'Ivoire (planned)

Objective: To improve conditions and structures for bilateral business relations with Germany

Amount of Funding:

Type of Funding: Bilateral (planned)

Economic Advisory Service to the Ministry for Economics

Objective: To assist the authorities in the establishment of laws and institutions for sustainable development

Amount of Funding: DM 4 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral

Concepts and Methods related to Quality Assurance of Agricultural Products in Developing Countries

Objective: National actors in selected developing countries assume their responsibility with regard to the quality assurance of agricultural products and to the application of an ecologically sound plant protection. Special points of interest: SPS-Agreement, Codex Alimentarius standards

Amount of Funding: DM 2 million

Type of Funding: Bilateral