

**Council for Trade-Related Aspects  
of Intellectual Property Rights**

Original: English

## **TECHNOLOGY CAPACITY BUILDING: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

UNCTAD

### Addendum

The present document reproduces the information on technology capacity building and technical cooperation activities which has been received from UNCTAD, by means of a communication dated 30 March 2001.

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The purpose of this document is to provide additional information on secretariat's activities related to the capacity building activities and the TRIPS Agreement. It provides briefly the paragraphs of the UNCTAD Plan of Action, Tenth session, Bangkok, 12-19 February 2000. It then present summary information regarding relevant technical cooperation activities related to the TRIPS Agreement.

At the tenth session of UNCTAD) ( TD/386), in its stocktaking of major international initiatives, the Conference noted that the "importance of transfer of technology to developing countries has been recognized in various forums" and stated that technological development is "important for the integration and participation of developing countries in the international trading system. Such development can be facilitated by domestic and international actions, including human resource development, establishment and strengthening of appropriate policy and legal frameworks and the competitive environment, encouraging the establishment of more sophisticated industries, establishment of science and technology institutes and infrastructure, encouragement of business support services, and home country measures that encourage the transfer of technology, as well as environmentally sound technologies" (Plan of Action, paragraphs 86 and 89). Accordingly, UNCTAD was requested to continue to address issues of international investment, technology and enterprise development and "aim at improving the understanding of developing countries and economies in transition with respect to policy choices in these areas; strengthening these countries' national abilities to formulate and implement policies, measures and action programmes in these areas; and promoting understanding of emerging issues, including the role of international arrangements, with a view to strengthening their ability to participate in discussions and negotiations." (paragraph 114).

The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, at its fifth session, 12 -16 February 2001, in its agreed recommendations with regard to international policy issues: home country measures (HCMs), addressed the following recommendations to the international community: "There should be further examinations of what measures Governments have taken to implement the

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provisions of international agreements on transfer of technology, bearing in mind the importance of the effective implementation of international commitments relating to technology and its transfer, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement), by host and home countries. International support measures can be useful in facilitating FDI flows to developing countries, including through the improvement of the enabling environment". The Commission also recommended that, in line with the mandate from UNCTAD X, UNCTAD should "Analyse all aspects of existing international agreements relevant to transfer of technology" and "Design technical cooperation activities to assist countries in making more effective use of available HCNIIs." (TD/B/COM.2/L. 13).

Technical cooperation activities which are aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to attract and benefit from foreign direct investment and technology; formulate and implement policies and strategies; improve understanding of issues and policy choices in international investment and technology transfer; and participate in discussions and negotiations on related issues cover aspects of the TRIPS Agreement. Such activities include advisory services, seminars, workshops and training.

Advice and observations, upon request, in the field of transfer of technology and investment have geared towards understanding of issues in the TRIPS Agreement and better elucidating their development dimension.

Seminars and regional symposia on investment and technology as well as on positive agenda have often included a component on the TRIPS Agreement related issues.

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