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TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT
SUBMITTED BY THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

INTEGRATED RESPONSES BY WORLD BANK,
ITC, UNCTAD, IMF, WTO and UNDP¹

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT
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A. Trade Policy

(a) What are the sectors that you believe have unexploited or underexploited export potential?

1. There are several sectors with unexploited export potential, in particular:

- Industrial fishing;
- mining (Mayombe bituminous schist, columbo-tantalite, iron);
- methane gas from Lake Kivu;
- exotic products;
- art objects.

2. Sectors with an underexploited export potential:

Mining

All mining products and particularly:

- Copper;
- zinc;
- bauxite;
- tin;
- gold;
- diamonds;
- cobalt;
- cassiterite;
- cadmium;
- crude oil;
- tungsten;
- metal scrap;
- pyrochlore.

Agriculture

All agricultural products and particularly:

- Wood;
- cocoa;
- tea;
- coffee;
- rubber;
- copal;
- rauwolfia;
- palm oil;
- palm kernel oil;
- palm kernel cake;
- tobacco;
- cinchona;
- totaquine;

- cotton;
- ginger.

Forestry

Stock farming

Energy

- Electricity

Industrial (manufacturing)

- Cement;
- glycerine;
- textiles and clothing.

(b) Could you please define your country's perspective of the reasons for any changes in the structure and direction of exports and imports?

Yes, to the extent that we can change the structure of exports and imports we shall be able to bring our trade into balance or even achieve a surplus.

Imports: reduce food imports by increasing domestic food production.

Exports: diversify and rationalize exports, in particular in order to increase the share of agricultural and manufactured products.

(c) What have been the objectives of trade policy in the most recent period, compared to, say, two decades ago?

Recently, the objectives of trade policy have been as follows:

- Diversification of our export products with the stress on manufactured goods;
- geographical diversification of our export and import markets;
- consolidation of the Congo's position in its traditional markets in order to retain its existing advantages;
- encouragement of domestic production of goods and services so as to restrict imports, as far as possible, to capital goods, the inputs needed by the productive sector and staples;
- selection of imports according to their impact on the economic development of the country;
- safeguarding of the national economic area;
- economic and social recovery.

(d) What are the Ministries in charge of trade policy matters, including formulation, implementation, enforcement and monitoring? How is coordination made? What are the respective roles of the relevant Ministries (give particular attention to tariff policies and other policies directly affecting exports and imports of goods and services)?

- Ministry of Economics, Industry and Foreign Trade;
- Ministry of Planning;
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Agriculture;
- Ministry of the Environment.

Coordination is made by the Ministry responsible for foreign trade in the Foreign Trade Facilitation Committee whose tasks include formulating suggestions and proposing measures calculated to improve and promote Congolese foreign trade.

The various Ministries responsible for foreign trade matters establish the specific conditions for exports and imports within their respective areas of competence in consultation with the Ministry of Economics, Industry and Foreign Trade which manages the formulation of trade policy.

(e) How are the private sector and academic institutions associated with the formulation and conduct of trade policy?

The private sector and academic institutions are associated with the formulation and conduct of trade policy through participation in conferences, forums, seminars and workshops on the promotion of Congolese products.

(f) What are the institutions in your country that can play a role in implementation of a trade-related project at the local level? State their respective roles.

All the banking institutions, in particular the Central Bank, Banque de Crédit Agricole, the commercial banks and credit cooperatives, Société Financière de Développement, the Foreign Trade Facilitation Committee, the Investment Commission and the Customs and Excise Administration.

(g) What are the main laws and regulations dealing with trade policy - on exports and imports? Please provide a short description of each.

1. Special Law No. 73-009 on trade of 5 January 1973, as amended by Law No. 74-014 of 10 July 1974 and by Ordinance Law No. 80-010 of 30 July 1980, as since amended and supplemented: it grants the ministry responsible for foreign trade powers to regulate and oversee the importation, exportation and transit of goods and assets.

2. Ordinance-Law No. 74-013 of 10 July 1974 establishing the Congolese Inspection Office (OCC) which checks the quality, quantity and conformity of all goods and analyses all samples and products intended for export or import.

3. Ordinance No. 79-114 of 15 May 1979 establishing the Customs and Excise Administration (OFIDA):

- Decree No. 0011 of 22 January 1997 establishing a new import tariff;
- Decree No. 0012 of 22 January 1997 establishing a new export tariff: OFIDA collects import/export duties and taxes in accordance with the tariff in force.

4. Ordinance-Law No. 67-272 of 23 June 1967 on the National Bank of the Congo (BNC) which is authorized to establish exchange regulations for exports and imports.

5. Ordinance-Law No. 89-288 of 9 November 1989 establishing the National Prices Commission (CNM) which compiles and publishes lists of market prices of all Congolese exports.

6. Ordinance-Law No. 86-028 of 5 April 1986 establishing the Investment Code. This is intended to encourage national and foreign, private and public promoters to invest in activities calculated to contribute to the economic and social development of the country and eligible for tax and customs concessions.

7. Decree No. PCE-003 of 7 April 1988 establishing the Foreign Trade Facilitation Committee (CFCE). The CFCE makes proposals and suggestions to the Government for measures to improve the country's foreign trade.

(h) What are the main instruments of trade policy - on exports and imports? Please elaborate (e.g. on import restrictions, the questions might be: on what products are there any import bans; on what products are there quantitative import restrictions; licensing requirements, etc.; what is the highest tariff rate currently in use; are there any excise taxes, other "domestic" taxes that are applied differentially to imported goods, or to goods of a type that are principally imported?).

Customs legislation (Decree of 29 January 1949 coordinating and revising the Congolese customs regime, as amended and supplemented by numerous later texts, and Ordinance No. 33/9 of 6 January 1950 regulating the implementation of the Decree of 29 January 1949, as amended and supplemented).

Description:

Regulates various traditional customs procedures (warehousing, transport under customs control), and customs import and export formalities (signature of declarations, examination of goods).

Excise legislation (Decree No. 0010 of 22 January 1997 amending and supplementing Ordinance-Law No. 68-010 of 6 January 1968 concerning excise and consumption duties and the alcoholic beverage regime).

Description:

This text amends the consumption duty rate on a restricted list of products (tobacco, beer, vermouth, cigarettes).

Decrees Nos. 0011 and 0012 of 22 January 1997 establishing new import and export tariffs.

Description:

The new import tariff has reduced the range and level of the rates applicable. Formerly there were five rates, namely 15, 20, 30, 40 and 50 per cent, whereas today there are only four: 5, 15, 20 and 30 per cent.

Nevertheless, there are special provisions in the tariff for preferential rates (5 per cent) in the following cases:

- goods intended for the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance or conversion of vessels, tugs or pusher craft of headings 8901 to 8909;
- CKD kits.

Other provisions offer numerous tariff concessions. As for the export tariff, it only applies to a few products, the established principle being not to tax exports.

The main instruments of trade policy are the import and export tariffs:

- import bans: cf. National Bank of the Congo;
- import restrictions: sugar;
- highest rate: 40 per cent; on luxury goods and protected products;
- other taxes: 5 per cent (administrative fee) imposed by the tariff on goods imported under special provisions enabling them to be admitted free of import duties and taxes.

(i) In case you are a WTO member or are in the process of acceding, how is your country preparing itself to comply with the WTO agreements.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is preparing to strengthen its institutional and human capacities in order to analyse new questions and take advantage of the possibilities stemming from participation in the new multilateral trading system, as well as to fulfil its obligations by adapting its legislation to the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreements.

In this connection, there are certain conditions to be satisfied:

- Application of the GATT Agreement on Customs Valuation (1981);
- denunciation of the Convention on the Valuation of Goods for Customs Purposes or Brussels Definition of Value (BDV);
- need to delay, in accordance with Article 20 of the WTO Agreement, the application of its provisions for a period of five years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement for the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- retention, on a limited and transitional basis, of minimum values under the terms and conditions agreed by the Members of the WTO Committee on Customs Valuation;
- need to establish a central valuation division within the Customs and Excise Administration;
- need to amend the customs and excise legislation in order adapt its provisions to WTO requirements (rules on valuation and combating piracy and/or counterfeiting, etc.);
- need to familiarize customs users with WTO rules.

(j) What is the state of familiarity with the WTO framework:

- **Among Government and Government-related agencies?**
- **in the private sector?**

Among Government and Government-related agencies and in the private sector familiarity with the WTO framework is only flimsy. This is attributable, on the one hand, to ignorance of the WTO instruments themselves and, on the other, to poor coordination with the WTO due to the political isolation which the country has suffered.

Nevertheless, the new Government is endeavouring to remedy all the shortcomings noted in order to make the WTO framework better known to the various beneficiaries.

(k) What are your technical assistance requirements with regard to your compliance with the WTO Agreements?

The technical assistance requirements with regard to compliance with the WTO Agreements are numerous and include:

- Strengthening institutional and human capacities in order to help Congolese businessmen and officials to analyse new issues and take advantage of the opportunities created by participation in the multilateral trading system;
- contributing to the study of specific development problems relating to the effective participation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in international trade;
- contributing to vertical and horizontal diversification; encouraging recourse to risk-management measures on behalf of Congolese producers and exporters (the Congo being dependent on commodities);
- helping the Congo to gain access to data on trade in services;
- improving the support services that facilitate trade and exports;
- training businessmen and raising their level of understanding of the rules which govern international trade, especially their implications for day-to-day business management in a global economy;
- training commercial attachés posted to embassies to enable them to make their contribution to the development of trade and investment opportunities on behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- designing and preparing a foreign trade and investment guide to be widely circulated among trade representatives;
- training Government officials and private sector representatives in formulating rules and policies in the field of TRIPS;
- preparing officials for negotiations in the WTO by identifying more precisely the interests to be defended and improving the formulation of requirements.

(l) In which specific areas of the WTO Agreements do you have technical assistance needs (e.g. market access, agriculture, rules (anti-dumping, subsidies, import licensing, rules of origin, safeguards, etc.), TBT and SPS, services, TRIPS)?

The Congo has technical assistance needs in all the specific areas of the WTO Agreements.

(m) What is your assessment of your existing trade analysis and negotiating capacities, both multilateral and bilateral, in areas already covered by the WTO Agreements and other trade-related areas, e.g. competition policy and trade and environment?

We are not yet in a position to assess our trade analysis capacity in connection with the application of the WTO arrangements as Congo only became an original Member of the WTO on 1 January 1997. Nevertheless, the country has an ample supply of the skills necessary to negotiate within the framework of the WTO arrangements.

B. Obstacles to Trade Expansion

Obstacles to trade encompassing problems in export markets, infrastructure, human capacities, institutional bottlenecks, trade financing problems and gaps in trade information can inhibit a least-developed country from taking full advantage of trading opportunities.

Supply constraints, including institutional bottlenecks

(a) What are the main bottlenecks inhibiting the development of sustained export capacity of goods and services (e.g. customs facilitation, freight charges, quality management, elimination of cumbersome legal and administrative procedures, paucity of human skills, access at international prices to imported inputs, or inadequate telecommunication, port and transport facilities, etc)?

- **Landlocked countries may face additional problems, such as having to ship using costly or unreliable transport and ports systems. In case this applies to your country, please indicate such problems. What kind of technical assistance would help you work out these problems?**

The bottlenecks inhibiting the development of our capacity to export goods and services are of several kinds:

- Monetary: there are several monetary areas and, consequently, discrepancies between the official rates in these various areas which make transactions difficult;
- institutional: business men are faced with administrative formalities (procedures) which slow down the export and import processes;
- financial: the high cost of local inputs and transport leading to higher local producer prices; lack of mechanisms for financing the export of manufactured goods;
- structural: most manufacturing enterprises do not have their own export department;
- marketing: non-assimilation of international standards and lack of technology. Domestic manufacturers pay little attention to the finishing and packaging of their products. These are expensive items and most manufacturers regard them as a waste of money;
- ignorance of the bilateral and multilateral conventions;

- lack of national export promotion bodies with listening posts abroad supported by the trade sections of Congolese embassies;
- in addition to the above, there are also certain barriers which constitute major obstacles to export promotion:
 - (i) the tariff barriers which surround the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the problems posed by the free trade monetary area system;
 - (ii) the problems of international communications and high transport costs.

(b) Are there any institutional bottlenecks, which may impede the efficient conduct of your country's trade policies? Provide details. For example what are the problems perceived by the different actors, e.g. exporters, producers, service providers (banks, insurance companies, quality control, transporters, etc.), professional associations and ministries? Are problems mainly perceived in the area of:

- (i) Human resources;**
- (ii) institutional management;**
- (iii) financial and material resources;**
- (iv) communication.**

Yes, there are institutional bottlenecks maintained by the previous Government which have impeded the efficient conduct of the country's trade policy:

- the inadequacy of the official bodies and mechanisms established to administer and promote foreign trade (fragmentation, incomplete geographical coverage, overlapping of often very heavy responsibilities, uncontrolled and sterile competition between foreign trade promotion bodies);
- insufficient financial support;
- lack of cohesion and coordination;
- shortage of human resources and equipment;
- deterioration of roads and railways;
- obsolete equipment which adds to production costs;
- poor institutional management.

All these shortcomings are receiving the attention of the new Government which is endeavouring to remedy them.

(c) What are the main bottlenecks to export diversification?

The principal bottlenecks to export diversification are the very low level of production due principally to:

- The outward-oriented nature of our trade;
- the obsolescence of the capital equipment;
- the lack of suitable technology;
- the lack of financing;
- the misdirected Congolese industrialization policy.

(d) If investment in the production of goods and services is inadequate, what are the main reasons? Please elaborate them (e.g. structural constraints, difficulties in attracting foreign investment, limited enterprise development, financing, lack of appropriate technology, etc.).

Investment in the production of goods and services is inadequate for the following reasons:

- SMEs and large industries are subject to the same conditions, modalities and procedures of the approval regime and the investment code;
- difficulties of access to productive investment financing;
- non-existence of an institution specialized in SME investment financing;
- high repayment costs.

(e) Is there a national policy to encourage export-related investment opportunities? Please elaborate. What arrangements are in place for reviewing, drafting and negotiating contractual arrangements with foreign investors?

There is no national policy specially for encouraging export-related investment opportunities. Even the Investment Code does not specifically encourage export-related investment. The new Government has therefore decided to review the Code. With a few exceptions, there are no customs duties payable on exported goods and services.

(f) What are the main obstacles to the transfer, development and acquisition of technology? Is there any national or policy/strategy in this area? Please elaborate.

The main obstacles to the transfer, development and acquisition of technology are as follows:

- Poverty (lack of resources);
- lack of information (inadequate information and technical documentation infrastructure);
- occasional difficulty in assimilating imported technologies and adapting them to local conditions;
- no popularization of technical progress and new technologies;
- inadequate technical training;
- misdirected Congolese industrialization policy;

- obsolete equipment.

The present Government is endeavouring to remove these obstacles which were deliberately maintained.

(g) What are your technical assistance or other assistance needs with respect to supply constraints?

Technical assistance needs with respect to supply constraints reduce to the progressive installation of infrastructure in the areas of quality control, technical documentation, technological design and research, commercial information and financing (credit).

Trade promotion and trade support services

Trade promotion comprises an integrated set of technical and financial services to enhance the global competitiveness of enterprises and thus facilitate their entry and increasing participation in international trade.

(h) Do your enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises, experience difficulties in expanding their exports? What are these problems in the major export sectors?

Yes, the SMEs do experience difficulties in expanding their exports. In particular:

- Red tape in connection with the completion of export formalities;
- ignorance of trading opportunities available abroad, especially on the emerging markets;
- lack of facilities and incentives at the government level to enable SMEs to expand their business relations, including joint ventures with countries of the sub-region and others.

The Government is endeavouring to make good these shortcomings.

(i) What are the problems for your enterprises in obtaining reliable and up-to-date information on export/import business opportunities?

The main problems are:

- The lack of a reliable source able to provide information on export/business opportunities on a continuous basis;
- the existing information is fragmentary and reaches the economic operators in dribs and drabs from the services of the Ministry of Foreign Trade via the trade associations.

(j) Can your enterprises offer products of internationally acceptable design, quality and packaging to foreign buyers? If not, what are the problems?

No, apart from a few isolated efforts, in particular in the textile industry, our enterprises are not yet able to offer products of internationally acceptable quality and packaging to foreign buyers. The main problem is the lack of a quality control laboratory and standardization service.

(k) What problems, other than in terms of trade policy, do you anticipate in developing the export of services (e.g. computer software, tourism)?

- Lack of appropriate technology:
- lack of interest on the part of partners (the Congo having been regarded, rightly or wrongly, as a high risk area);
- lack of an appropriate policy at government level;
- poor maintenance of tourist and reception infrastructure.

(l) What are the technical/professional problems encountered by trade support institutions (e.g. Trade Promotion Council, Chamber of Commerce, Exporters' Association, etc.) in your country in providing their services to export/import enterprises?

- Difficulty in obtaining payment of invoices for services rendered;
- non-fulfilment of obligations;
- malfunctioning of the banking and financial services;
- lack of adequate resources and equipment.

(m) What problems and deficiencies are experienced by enterprises in international purchasing and inventory management?

- Malfunctioning of the banking and financial institutions;
- lack of commercial information.

(n) What are the present availability and arrangements for trade finance facilities (e.g. export credit guarantees, etc.)? Are there any perceived deficiencies in this area?

- Collective sourcing (grouping of SMEs);
- pooling of resources (consortium);
- SME cartels incorporating financial institutions offering a moral guarantee for collective credit.

(o) What are the main problems in the way of improving export/import management skills of your business enterprises? Do you have any training programmes in the country? What are the deficiencies?

Lack of resources for providing training, as expertise is very expensive.

(p) Does your trade representation service actively promote your trade? What are the weaknesses?

So far, we do not have any commercial representation services in our embassies to promote our products. Nevertheless, the new Government is in the process of introducing such services.

(q) Briefly describe your technical assistance needs in the area of trade promotion and support services.

Our technical assistance needs in the area of trade promotion and support services are as follows:

- Establishing a centre to facilitate communication between exporter and importer, like the former International Trade Centre of the Congo;
- setting up a financing structure for international trade enterprises;
- obtaining modern communications equipment (fax, computer for processing information and trade documentation in order to set up a database);
- training of officials of the ministry responsible for trade promotion and market exploration;
- rehabilitating Kinshasa International Fair (FIKIN), which is one of the means of promoting trade.

Market access

(r) What are your main market access problems?

- Lack of trade information concerning the market to be penetrated;
- complexity of marketing channels;
- insufficient finance;
- insufficient guarantees to reassure partners.

(s) What specific problems or barriers, and in which countries, are most troublesome for your exporters?

- The protectionist rules of western countries;
- rules of origin criteria;
- timidity of entrepreneurs;
- lack of information;
- ignorance of facilities under certain trading arrangements.

(t) Regional and subregional trading arrangements (RTAs): Please list RTAs to which your country belongs. Are you satisfied with the performance of these RTAs. Please state the problems of each. Do you have suggestions on how to solve these?

Regional trading arrangements:

- AEC/OAF (African Economic Community);
- ECA (Economic Commission for Africa);

Subregional trading arrangements:

- ECCAS;
- COMESA;
- SADDCC;
- CEPGL.

We are not entirely satisfied with the implementation of these regional and subregional trading arrangements, as there is a general problem, namely the non-existence of coordination and monitoring committees for any of these arrangements.

In this connection, the State has undertaken to give concrete form to the various agreements signed with the different regional and subregional organizations.

(u) Are there any problems in utilizing the existing market access preferences, such as GSP, GSTP? Please state the nature of problems relating to each of these.

Yes.

1. SGP: - Disparity of the rules of origin criteria of the countries granting market access preferences;
- limitations on products in the preference scheme;
- greater concessions granted to manufactured products.
2. SGPC: - Although it is a signatory, the non-ratification of the SGPC Agreement by the Congo is preventing it from enjoying the anticipated advantages.

(v) What are your technical assistance needs with respect to market access?

Our technical assistance needs with respect to market access are:

- Creation of trade points in order to expand Congolese trade;
- strengthening of human resource capacities;
- improvement of trade support services facilitating trade and exports, such as the Permanent Secretariat of the Foreign Trade Facilitation Committee;
- support with the framing of national policies promoting services infrastructure to improve development and commercial efficiency;
- implementation of export market studies for products or particular industrial sectors.

C. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is normally provided to developing and least-developed countries to build or enhance their human resources and institutional capacities, provide trade information and trade-related legal support, as well as improve their supply capabilities in order to make them more active players in the field of multilateral trade.

(a) To the extent that this kind of information is easily available, could you please briefly describe what trade-related assistance you have received over the past five years from bilateral and multilateral sources and what projects/programmes are presently under consideration in this area.

In view of the breakdown of structural cooperation due to the political problems of the previous Government, the country has not received trade-related assistance from bilateral or multilateral sources during the last five years and there are no projects currently being implemented in this area.

(b) Please summarize your technical assistance needs as well as other needs as reflected in this checklist. Please rank them in terms of priority.

The technical assistance needed is as follows:

1. Laboratory equipment and instruments (see Annex).
2. Purchase of equipment for the automatic processing of trade information and statistics.
3. Help with the examination of the specific development problems relating to the effective participation of the Congo in international trade and international investment.
4. Strengthening of institutional and human capacities to help us analyse new issues and take advantage of the opportunities following from participation in the multilateral trading system, and fulfil our obligations in this respect.
5. Support with strategies intended to promote the framing of national competition and consumer protection policies and legislation.
6. Help in making better use of preferences as a result of closer familiarity with the SGP and other preferential trading arrangements such as the SGCP.
7. Assistance for the Congo, in coordination with UNCTAD, in obtaining access to data on trade in services.
8. Support with the framing of national policies to promote and attract foreign investment.
9. Support with the framing of national policies to promote the development of the private sector, including SMEs and privatization questions.
10. Support with the framing of national policies to promote the development of the spirit of free enterprise, with provision for the participation of women.
11. Encouragement of dialogue between the public and private sectors.
12. Support with the framing of national policies promoting services infrastructure to improve development and commercial efficiency.
13. Improvement of trade support services.
14. Strengthening of human resources capacity.

15. Encouragement of recourse to risk management measures on behalf of Congolese producers and exporters.

(c) In the light of the information you have been able to provide so far in response to the questions in this check list, what types of information are, in your view, still missing or could be improved upon? In order to assist you in providing this missing information, would you need technical assistance?

No question has been overlooked. However, should other problems arise, the Congo will not fail to keep you informed.

(d) Does your country have the technological capacity and human resources to make use of the new information/communication technology tools such as CD-Rom, the Internet, etc.? What assistance would you need to enable your country to use these tools in the context of training and, more generally, in the context of trade development?

The Congo lacks the technological capacity but does possess the human resources to make use of the new information/communication technology tools such as CD-Rom, the Internet, etc.

ANNEX

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS

Spectrometry equipment

<u>Description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
- UV/visible spectrophotometer	6
- Near IR spectrophotometer	4
- Atomic absorption spectrometer	3
- Fluorimeter	3

Chromatography equipment

- Gas phase chromatograph	
- HPLC (automatic quantity determination)	3
- Thin layer	12

Galenical equipment

- Crumbling of tablets	3
- Hardness of tablets	3
- Melting point of suppositories	3

Immunology equipment

- Salmonella diagnostic kit	15
- Elisa staphylococcus diagnostic kit	15

Microbiology equipment

- Autoclave	5
- Spectrofluorimeter	3
- Pasteuriser	5
- Incubator	8
- Cell counter	3
- Laminar flow hood	3
- Universal table centrifuge	6
- Refrigerated centrifuge	5

Miscellaneous equipment

- Laboratory mill	6
- Cryoscope	3
- Rotary evaporator	10
- Distributing diluter	8
- Ventilating hood	10
- Melting point	8

<u>Description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<u>Equipment for oils and fats</u>	
- Karl Fischer	5
<u>Water analysis equipment</u>	
- Turbidimeter	8
- Portable laboratory hach	6
- DR 2000 spectro hach	6
- COD Reactor	3
- PH, LC and coliform pack	3
<u>Equipment for flour and starch</u>	
- Zeleny	3
- Brabander sedimentation	3
- Settling time	3
- Laboratory grinder	3
- Kneader	3
- Laboratory grinder	3
- Low temperature thermostat	3
<u>Equipment for sampling</u>	
- Lab sample divider	3
- Slotted divider size 1	3
- Slotted divider size 2	3
- Electromagnetic sieve	3
- Rotary MVTS sieve	3
- Jaw crusher	3
- Cleaning bath	3
<u>Electrochemical equipment</u>	
- Potentiometer	2
- Titrator ets (radiometer)	8
<u>Technical testing equipment</u>	
- Oil tanker vehicle standard measurement compartment	2
- Mine cable testing apparatus (ACMI) TPE PMK 40/NR 7500-2MGA	10
- USK 7-type ultrasound equipment	10
- Bodson-type 16.249 IH 2000 endoscope	20
- EH60/D-type insulating oil testers	10
- Sonomex UTM 200-type thickness measuring instrument	20

II. PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE AUTOMATIC PROCESSING OF TRADE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS.

INTEGRATED RESPONSES BY WORLD BANK,
ITC, UNCTAD, IMF, WTO AND UNDP

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In response to question A(k): <u>Technical assistance for compliance with the WTO Agreements</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening institutional and human capacities in order to help Congolese businessmen and officials to analyse new issues and take advantage of the opportunities created by participation in the multilateral trading system. 	WTO	<p>To strengthen the existing institutions, WTO will take the following steps to train managers and inform them about the multilateral trading system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national seminar in 1998; - participation of Congolese representatives in specialized seminars for French-speaking LDCs to be organized in 1998 and 1999; - a three-week trade policy training course will be organized for French-speaking LDCs in 1998 and 1999.
	ITC/ UNCTAD/ UNDP	The joint ITC/UNCTAD/UNDP regional project on "Strengthening capacities for trade and development in Africa" provides for the strengthening of international trade training institutions. See B(g).
	World Bank/ WTO	A regional seminar on the institutions and economic logic of international trade will be organized as part of the joint World Bank/WTO initiative with the Indian Ocean or SADC countries (FYI999).

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>Question A(k) (cont'd):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributing to the study of specific development problems relating to the effective participation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in international trade. 	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will assist with the evaluation and determination of the general impact of globalization and liberalization on the country with a view to facilitating the adaptation of trade policy to the various WTO Agreements so as to enable the Congo to take advantage of the new international trade environment.*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributing to vertical and horizontal diversification; encouraging recourse to risk management measures on behalf of Congolese producers and exporters (the Congo being dependent on commodities). 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping the Congo to gain access to data on trade in services. 	World Bank/WTO	Planned installation of joint World Bank/WTO Web site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the support services that facilitate trade and exports. 	ITC	See B(g).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training businessmen and raising their level of understanding of the rules which govern international trade, especially their implications for day-to-day business management in a global economy. 	UNDP	UNDP could finance one or two national seminars to familiarize local businessmen with the rules of international trade as part of its private sector support programme.
	WTO	See above.
	ITC	See B(g).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training commercial attachés posted to embassies to enable them to make their contribution to the development of trade and investment opportunities on behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 	ITC/UNDP	As part of its regional programme on trade development in Africa (RAF/96/001), UNDP will finance the participation of one or two national officials in the regional seminar on this subject organized by the ITC.

* Financing to be requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question A(k) (cont'd):		
- Designing and preparing a foreign trade and investment guide to be widely circulated among trade representatives.		
- Training Government officials and private sector representatives in formulating rules and policies in the field of TRIPS.	WTO	See above.
- Preparing officials for negotiations in the WTO by identifying more precisely the interests to be defended and improving the formulation of requirements.	ITC	See B(g).
	UNCTAD	See above.
	UNDP	See above.
	WTO	See above.
	World Bank/ WTO	Planned installation of joint World Bank/WTO Web site.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In response to question A(l): <u>Technical assistance in specific areas of the WTO Agreements</u>		
The Congo has technical assistance needs in all the specific areas of the WTO Agreements.	WTO	See A(k).

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question A(m):</p> <p><u>Assessment of trade analysis and negotiating capacities</u></p>		
<p>We are not yet in a position to assess our trade analysis capacity in connection with the application of the WTO arrangements as Congo only became an original Member of the WTO on 1 January 1997. Nevertheless, the country has an ample supply of the skills necessary to negotiate within the framework of the WTO arrangements.</p>	WTO	<p>A module on multilateral trade negotiations will be introduced into the trade policy training courses for French-speaking LDCs.</p>

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question B(g):</p> <p><u>Technical assistance needs with respect to supply constraints</u></p>		
<p>Technical assistance needs with respect to supply constraints reduce to the progressive installation of infrastructure in the areas of quality control, technical documentation, technological design and research, commercial information and financing (credit).</p>	ITC	<p>The technical conditions for the establishment of an Export Promotion Centre will be examined in the context of an ITC identification mission planned for 1998. Following this mission, the elements of a technical cooperation project will be defined, including the establishment of a trade information documentation centre.*</p>

* Financing to be requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In response to question B(q): <u>Technical assistance needs in the area of trade promotion and support services</u>		
- Establishing a centre to facilitate communication between exporter and importer, like the former International Trade Centre of the Congo.	ITC	See B(g). Following the above-mentioned mission, the elements of a technical cooperation project intended to strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion of foreign trade will be defined.*
- Setting up a financing structure for international trade enterprises.		
- Obtaining modern communications equipment (fax, computer for processing information and trade documentation in order to set up a database).	World Bank/ WTO	Planned installation of the joint World Bank/WTO Web site.
- Training of officials of the ministry responsible for trade promotion and market exploration.	ITC/ UNCTAD/ UNDP	See A(k).
- Rehabilitating Kinshasa International Fair (FIKIN), which is one of the means of promoting trade.	ITC	Textile and leather sector promotion activities, including participation in international fairs, are planned as part of the regional projects for the promotion of intra-African trade.

* Financing to be requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In response to question B(v): <u>Technical assistance needs with respect to market access</u>		
- Creation of trade points in order to expand Congolese trade.	ITC/ UNCTAD	Discussions are in progress concerning the establishment of a trade point in the Ministry of Trade.*
- Strengthening of human resources capacities.	ITC/ UNCTAD/ UNDP	See A(k).
	WTO	See A(k).
- Improvement of trade support services facilitating trade and exports, such as the Permanent Secretariat of the Foreign Trade Facilitation Committee.		
- Support with the framing of national policies promoting services infrastructure to improve development and commercial efficiency.		
- Implementation of export market studies for products or particular industrial sectors.	ITC	See B(q).

* Financing to be requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In response to question C(b): <u>Summary of technical assistance needs, in terms of priority</u>		
1. Laboratory equipment and instruments (see Annex).		
2. Purchase of equipment for the automatic processing of trade information and statistics.		
3. Help with the examination of the specific development problems relating to the effective participation of the Congo in international trade and international investment.		
4. Strengthening of institutional and human capacities to help us analyse new issues and take advantage of the opportunities following from participation in the multilateral trading system, and fulfil our obligations in this respect.	ITC/ UNCTAD/ UNDP	See A(k).
	WTO	See A(k) and A(m).
5. Support with strategies intended to promote the framing of national competition and consumer protection policies and legislation.	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will help the country to develop competition policies and legislation. It will assist with building up the corresponding national institutional capacities.*
6. Help in making better use of preferences as a result of closer familiarity with the SGP and other preferential trading arrangements such as the SGCP.	UNCTAD	The Democratic Republic of the Congo will benefit from the projects on SGP and SGCP (additional resources being sought).
7. Assistance for the Congo, in coordination with UNCTAD, in obtaining access to data on trade in services.		

* Financing to be requested

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont'd):	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will propose technical assistance to strengthen the legal and institutional environment in order to attract the maximum of direct foreign investment.*
8. Support with the framing of national policies to promote and attract foreign investment.	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will propose technical assistance to strengthen the legal and institutional environment in order to attract the maximum of direct foreign investment.*
9. Support with the framing of national policies to promote the development of the private sector, including SMEs and privatization questions.	UNDP	Under its national programme of assistance for the private sector, UNDP will be able to address part of this request. Additional financing requested.
10. Support with the framing of national policies to promote the development of the spirit of free enterprise, with provision for the participation of women.		
11. Encouragement of dialogue between the public and private sectors.	UNDP	Under its national programme of assistance for the private sector, UNDP will help the Government to promote a dialogue with the private sector and strengthen the managerial capacities of entrepreneurs.
12. Support with the framing of national policies promoting services infrastructure to improve development and commercial efficiency.		
13. Improvement of trade support services.	ITC/ UNCTAD	See A (k), B(g) and B(v). (Trade point).
14. Strengthening of human resources capacity.	ITC	See A(k).
	World Bank	Training courses are planned within the capacity strengthening initiatives: "Strengthening of statistical capacities" (1998).
15. Encouragement of recourse to risk management measures on behalf of Congolese producers and exporters.		

* Financing to be requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In response to question C(d): <u>Technological capacity and human resources to make use of the new information technology tools</u>		
The Congo lacks the technological capacity but does possess the human resources to make use of the new information/communication technology tools such as CD-Rom, the Internet, etc.	UNDP	As part of the regional programme RAF/97/021, UNDP will provide for the participation of a few national officials in the seminars on the Internet which it will organize in the subregion.
	WTO	The WTO will make a computer and a laser printer available to the Ministry of Trade. The WTO will also be able to make the necessary connections between the focal point and the Internet and will supply instructional CD-Roms.
	World Bank/WTO	Planned installation of joint World Bank/WTO Web site.