

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/COMTD/LLDC/W/6

1 May 1997

(97-1903)

---

## Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries

### HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PROJECTED BUDGET

#### Note by the Secretariat

This Note contains an estimate prepared by the WTO Secretariat, in consultation with other international organisations, of the financial costs involved in the preparation, servicing and follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Least-Developed Countries which will be held on 27-28 October 1997.

The main elements involved are:

- Assistance to individual least-developed countries in preparing their detailed "needs assessment" for trade-related technical cooperation. An invitation to undertake a needs assessment is being sent to all (48) least-developed countries. Where possible, requests from these countries for assistance in completing their needs assessments will be met by staff of the six international organisations most closely involved in the High Level Meeting. It is the view of these organisations, however, that it will be necessary to supplement their own resources by using consultants in the event there is a strong, positive response from the least-developed countries to be involved in the exercise. The services of consultants have therefore been included in the budget estimate, costed at the standard UN rate of \$16,000 per month plus travel expenses.
- Financing the participation of up to three officials from each least-developed country at the High-Level Meeting (travel and per diem expenses at standard UN rates).
- Servicing the High-Level Meeting.
- Financing the participation of representatives of non-governmental organisations from least-developed and developing countries at a separate non-governmental organization (NGO) meeting to address the subject of supporting trade-related activities of least-developed countries.
- Follow-up. It is envisaged that the process of completing initial "needs assessments" by least-developed countries and periodically reviewing them would continue after the High-Level Meeting as the integrated approach for supporting trade-related activities of least-developed countries is applied on a permanent basis. This would require the use of consultants to the extent that the resources of the six international organisations involved were insufficient to meet demand.

At the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development on 21 March 1997, delegations were informed that a Trust Fund has been set up by the WTO Secretariat to finance the High-Level Meeting on Least-Developed Countries as well as its follow-up. The Trust Fund is intended to ensure that the High-Level Meeting will not be financed out of the WTO regular budget but rather by the

./.

Member Governments of the six international organisations involved in the Meeting. Depending upon the demand from least-developed countries for assistance in preparing their needs assessments, it may prove necessary for the Secretariat to request the replenishment of the Trust Fund at a later stage.

Delegations wishing to contribute to the financing of the High-Level Meeting are invited to contact Mr. Jacques E. Chabert, Director of the Finance and General Services Division of the WTO, telephone (41 22) 739 5036 or fax (41-22) 739 5773.

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:  
PROJECTED BUDGET  
 (Swiss Francs)

Participation of Representatives from Least-Developed Countries:	1,200,000
General Conference Expenses:	30,000
Consultants to Assist Least-Developed Countries in their Needs Assessment:	300,000
NGO meeting:	75,000
<u>TOTAL:</u> =	<u>1,605,000</u>
Overhead Costs (13%) <sup>1</sup>	208,650
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u> =	<u>1,813,650</u>

---

<sup>1</sup>Following the decision of the WTO General Council (WT/GC/M/11).