
Committee on Trade and Development

COORDINATED WTO SECRETARIAT ANNUAL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN
2003

Note by the Secretariat

Revision

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I. INTRODUCTION: THE DOHA TA/CB COMMITMENTS AND THE SECRETARIAT STRATEGIC DIRECTION

1. This Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TA/CB) Plan is the second in the WTO Annual Plans since the Doha Ministerial Conference. At Doha, Ministers established an ambitious set of TA/CB commitments to respond to WTO negotiations and work programme. The 2002 TA Plan was the First of the Annual Plans. A High Level Meeting/Briefing (HLM) on TA/CB took place on 16 July 2002¹. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Members and observers on the implementation of the 2002 Plan, and to take stock. Although the HLM noted the progress made, it recognised that there was scope for improvement. Areas of improvement were suggested.

2. The broad parameters of the WTO Secretariat response to the Doha TA/CB commitments were set-out in the 2002 TA Plan (page 4). However, in light of the communicated requests and priorities for the 2003 TA Plan as well as the lessons learnt in the course of the implementation of the 2002 TA Plan, it is necessary to provide a sharper strategic direction for WTO TA. WTO TA must be seen as part of the overall development plan and/or Poverty Reduction Strategies of TA recipient countries. WTO TA does not stand alone. It forms an integral part of development plans to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. As a consequence, requests and priorities communicated to the WTO necessarily need to be linked to priorities by countries in their plans. The use of TA for the process of integrating trade into development is in three inter-linked stages, namely: (i) TA to develop negotiating capacity for the Doha Development Agenda; (ii) TA to build institutional capacity to understand the rules and implement agreements; and (iii) TA to develop commercial infrastructure for the development goals of revenue generation, increased employment and poverty reduction. The comparative advantage of WTO TA will be optimally applied to 1 and 2, although through advocacy, co-ordination and coherence, the WTO will encourage development and regional institutions to fund trade-related commercial infrastructure.

| (1) WTO TA | (2) TA by WTO & Specialized Agencies | (3) TA by Development & Regional Institutions |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| TA to build negotiating capacity | TA to build institutional capacity for understanding the rules and implementation | TA for commercial infrastructure, employment and poverty reduction |

3. This Second Annual Plan is a continuation of the implementation of the TA/CB commitments in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, including the New Strategy for WTO Technical Co-operation, which was endorsed in paragraph 38 of the Ministerial Declaration. This Plan takes account of the:

- Formally communicated and identified priorities by beneficiary countries to the Secretariat;
- suggestions by the membership for improving the design of the 2002 Annual Plan, at the High Level Meeting on TC and CB, 16 July 2002;
- lessons drawn from the implementation of the 2002 Plan, which were discussed at the High Level Meeting;
- the decision in the Doha Ministerial Declaration that TA/CB are core elements of the development dimension of the multilateral trading system with direct implications for WTO negotiations and work programme; and

¹ WT/COMTD/43.

- need to establish the foundation of WTO TA/CB that will extend beyond the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and Work Programme.

| PARAGRAPHS | DOHA TC/CB MANDATES |
|--|---|
| 16 | Tariff negotiations: non-agricultural market access |
| 21 | Trade and investment |
| 24 | Trade and competition |
| 26 | Transparency in government procurement |
| 27 | Trade Facilitation |
| 33 | Trade and Environment |
| 38 | Mainstreaming/Implementation/WTO TC&CB New Strategy |
| 39 | IF/JITAP – Co-ordination with bilateral donors/agencies |
| 40 | Predictable Funding for TA activities |
| 42 | LDCs' Accessions |
| 43 | Integrated Framework for TRTA to the LDCs |
| WTO SECRETARIAT RESPONSES TO THE TC/CB MANDATES | |
| 1 | Co-ordinated issue-based TA/CB delivery with defined inter-agency groups |
| 2 | Integrated Framework for TRTA to LDCs |
| 3 | Management of the Joint WTO/OECD TRTA/CB database |
| 4 | Co-ordinated TA/CB delivery based on “Understanding” with 6 Regional Development Banks (RDBs) |
| 5 | WTO Annual Plans (TA/CB for Negotiations, Implementation & Trade Integration) |
| 6 | Evaluation and Audit |

II. LESSONS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2002 ANNUAL TA/CB PLAN

4. Several key lessons were drawn from the Secretariat implementation of the 2002 TA Plan. These lessons were reviewed with the membership and observers at the HLM on 16 July. They will need to be taken into account and integrated into the implementation of the 2003 Plan, if the objectives of the Plan are to be attained. In summary, the lessons are that:

- First, demand is infinite and exceeds supply; as a result sorting and rationalizing are a necessity and carefully defined strategic partnerships are indispensable;
- second, to achieve sustainability with high yield in trade capacity building, recipient countries need to ensure that trade priorities and demands for assistance and capacity building (as communicated to the WTO also) need to be integrated into their overall development plans and strategies for poverty reduction. This approach will also assist beneficiary countries to increase national absorptive capacity of TA through enhanced national co-ordination;
- third, co-ordination challenges remain acute at several levels: at the national level, amongst agencies, and amongst bilateral donors. Addressing this challenge must be a key objective by TA providers and beneficiaries in the TA 2003 Plan;
- fourth, well-defined agency partnerships, careful arrangements with bilateral donors, and building on these synergies will be essential requirements for fully responding to the Doha commitments;
- fifth, the role of the Bretton Woods Institutions and the 6 major Regional Development Banks are key to the implementation of the Doha TC mandates. These roles turn on policy knowledge of the regions, intellectual contributions, and funding support;
- sixth, recipient countries have re-emphasized their preferred priorities in their TA/CB requests. Greater need has been expressed for capacity building for trade integration (stimulating supply-side responses, export diversification, etc) relative to capacity building for short term TA/CB for WTO negotiations. As an agency, the WTO cannot deliver, in this regard, except through co-ordinated arrangements with development agencies and bilateral donors, and the recipient countries themselves;
- seventh, there is an even distribution of preferences expressed for delivery modes, which focuses on training in short trade policy courses, training-for-trainers, WTO internships, seminars, and workshops – all have been requested for;
- eighth, the regions of most dire need and challenge in technical co-operation and capacity building are Africa, South Asia, the Caribbean, Central Asia, and the two inter-regional groups of the Least-Developed Countries and the acceding countries;
- ninth, there is wide scope for improvement and acceleration in the follow-up to the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) of the Integrated Framework for the Least-Developed Countries. There is concrete positive results but a renewed urgency for acceleration by bilateral donors and agencies;

- tenth, technical assistance and market access are not substitutes. Both are complementary, but achieving the objectives of one will not serve to fulfill the objectives of the other;
- eleventh, there is a threshold capacity of the WTO Secretariat to deliver TA. This capacity threshold was attained in 2002. At current levels and staffing strength, the Secretariat cannot deliver more than approximately 450 high yield, high quality activities. It needs to be emphasised that the Secretariat on a daily basis provides advisory services to Member and Observer delegations, in Geneva, and by telephone, and video conference to capital authorities. Members value this assistance, which counts as WTO technical assistance;
- finally, ad hoc activities undermine the logic and rationality of WTO TA Plans. The principal responsibility for addressing this challenge lies with the Secretariat, but support from recipient countries and the membership is indispensable.

5. As part of the overall lessons drawn from the implementation of the 2002 TA Plan, the Director-General has underlined the necessity for cost efficiency, rationality and transparency in the use of the resources in the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF).

III. THE 2003 TA PLAN – A SUMMARY

6. The challenge of the 2003 WTO Annual Plan for TA/CB is to build capacity in the beneficiary countries for effective negotiations, legal implementation of WTO Agreements, and trade integration. To meet this challenge, the 2003 Plan focuses on the complementary objectives of TA and CB for *effective participation in the negotiations, for implementation, and for trade integration*. Emphasis is on high quality delivered activities, which coherently links identified national activities with regional activities.

7. *In structure* the 2003 TA/CB Plan directly links a number of national activities² to 190 highly focused regional activities, from which all requesting countries will benefit. In those instances where the number of national requests for a given subject exceed the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver, these individual national requests have been grouped into a regional activity. Based on clear lessons drawn from the implementation of the 2002 TA Plan, the number of activities that can optimally be delivered by the WTO as an individual agency and at current strength is no more than 450. Activities have been strictly designed based on the distribution of priorities formally communicated in requests by 118 countries (disaggregated into 1038) discrete requests. Most of the activities requested fall within the parameters of the agreed Doha TC/CB commitments.

8. The individual activities for the 2003 WTO TA/CB Plan are contained in Addendum 1 to this Plan. The activities annexed to this Plan for implementation in 2003 have been measured against the guiding principles of TRTA by the WTO (as in Section IV of this Note). These are specifically focused on identified need preferences for highly specialized regional activities, establishing partnerships and building on synergies with other agencies, bilateral donors and TA providers. To the extent possible, the WTO Secretariat will facilitate co-operation on TA between WTO Members and observers requesting TA, on the one hand, and agencies and bilateral donors, on the other. In this regard, the Secretariat has taken specific steps with other TA providers.

9. As part of the 2003 Plan, the WTO Secretariat is in formal communication with the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, Regional Development Banks, and the core multilateral economic institutions to consider appropriate responses to the balance of the discrete

² Approximately 2 per developing country and 3 per each LDC.

requests not covered in the 2003 WTO list of planned activities. [Letters to the DAC/OECD and to the World Bank are contained in Annexes I and II to this Note]. Following on an earlier meeting with Regional Development Banks on 3 May 2002, a meeting has been scheduled with Regional Development Banks on 30 October, on implementation of listed and requested activities. [See annex III]. A meeting has also been scheduled with the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions on the implementation of listed and requested activities, and consolidating current work. [See annex IV]. Meetings with multilateral agencies and bilateral donors are also scheduled in the context of the second joint meeting of the IAWG/DAC, 28-29 November 2002. The WTO Secretariat will inform Members and Observers of responses from bilateral donors, the Regional Development Banks, and the core multilateral economic institutions to the balance of the requests from WTO members and observers.

10. Members and observers who formally requested TA from the WTO Secretariat have had their requests acknowledged. They also have been individually contacted and informed of the process of communicating to other agencies, the DAC/OECD, and the Regional Development Banks, their priority requests that have either not been covered in national or linked regional activities. [Format letter addressed to each of the 118 requesting countries is attached as Annex V to this Note]. Inter-agency partnerships and strategic partnerships with bilateral donors, as mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, are indispensable for a meaningful and effective response to the trade capacity building commitments in the DDA. In this regard, concrete progress has been made, and the Secretariat is confident that these commitments will be met in the attainment of the Doha TC commitments, and with sustainability in the period beyond Doha.

11. **Trade capacity building for participation in WTO negotiations and work programme** falls directly within WTO Secretariat competence. It will enhance the capacity for effective participation in the WTO negotiations and work programme. **Trade capacity building for trade integration** will enhance the ability of beneficiary countries to increase the benefits they draw from the open, rules-based multilateral trading system. This is the area where partnerships and synergies with other multilateral institutions and bilateral donors are of the most urgent need. Capacity building for trade integration will be based on the New Strategy for TC endorsed by Ministers in paragraph 38 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, which consists of several core elements, including the concept of the re-vamped Integrated Framework. This concept involves a process of multilateral agency/donor intervention with a beneficiary country to identify TRTA priorities through diagnostic trade integration studies (or trade policy reviews); the products which are then integrated into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and overall national development plans.

IV. CHALLENGES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

12. The implementation of the 2002 Plan made evident several of the dilemmas and challenges in WTO technical co-operation. These challenges were made acute because of the increased scale of TA activities, the increased number of beneficiary countries, and the changed policy environment in which TC and CB are now core elements of the development dimension of the multilateral trading system, and WTO core business.

13. As background, WTO technical co-operation, initially, was based on a demand-driven principle and practice, according to which the Secretariat was required to respond to all individually communicated requests. The environment has changed. Since 1995, WTO TA activities have now grown by 660% - from 79 activities in 1995 to over 600 activities requested for 2002. Demand-driven TA was possible when demand was limited and manageable, and the number of beneficiary countries was small. Increased membership as well as the deepening and extension of the coverage of WTO subject matter have drastically changed this situation. It is now evidently clear that a degree of sorting and rationalization of communicated requests is required, in close consultations between the Secretariat and the requesting countries, and based on the *priorities* explicitly identified by the

requesting countries. This approach is inevitable in light of the infinity of demands and finite Secretariat resources and capacity limitations. **Several of these challenges clearly require new guiding principles for the management of TA and CB, which have been applied in this 2003 Plan.**

14. **First**, *the Secretariat will effectively deliver on the principle that TA/CB will be based on Members' determined priorities*, but distinct from the compulsion to respond to each discrete and unsorted demand. *Sorting and rationalization as well as management of TA in consultation with TA recipients and providers will be a guiding principle.* TA/CB activities will, therefore, need to be based on the principle of a finite number of specific activities agreed by the requesting country and the Secretariat, and explicitly based on the requesting country's priority.

15. **Second**, as a principle, *regional activities will be directly linked to identified and agreed members' national activities*, in a manner that is understood by TA providers (WTO Secretariat) and beneficiary countries. TA/CB shall be provided to beneficiary countries in all agreed priority areas either at the national or as part of linked regional activities. Activities at both these levels will need to be seen as related, since in light of significantly increased number of requests for national activities, it is obvious that a beneficiary country will not be able to benefit from all areas of TA delivered at a national level. In the relationship between national and regional activities, the latter is significantly increased. However, all areas of requests will be covered.

16. **Third**, *systematic and cumulative human and institutional capacity-building again based on Members' explicitly determined priorities* is a key principle of the 2003 TA/CB Plan. This has made necessary the objective of creating programme menu (prepared on the basis of the formally communicated priorities from beneficiary countries). This programme menu will assist beneficiary countries to opt for choices of TA/CB from which they would like to benefit. The programme menu will provide a clear understanding of what will be delivered and gained in a systematic and cumulative manner. A programme approach responds to views expressed by the membership for a clear statement of menu presenting a logical order of choices for TA/CB objectives in the various areas of the Doha TC commitments. It will also respond to the position expressed by a few countries, either that they do not know what to ask for or that they need technical assistance to identify their domestic technical assistance needs. This programme menu is work in progress and will be prepared in consultation with the membership this year, and reviewed yearly.

17. **Fourth**, limiting *ad hoc* demands and fitful Secretariat responses to a strict minimum, and ensuring the precedence of authorized Plans over *ad hoc* activities is a key principle of this WTO Annual Plan. In spite of Secretariat objectives to limit *ad hoc* activities to a minimum in the 2002 Plan, the level of *ad hoc* relative to authorized activities was unsatisfactory and left much scope for improvement. Responsibility for this outcome is equally shared between beneficiary countries and the Secretariat. In principle and practice, there must be much stricter adherence to limiting *ad hoc* activities in the 2003 Plan to a minimum. This objective is compatible with flexibility. Flexibility involves, for instance, the replacement of an activity with another activity, variation in venues and dates, the transformation of a national activity to a regional activity for greater yield, and finally, in some instances, where unforeseen negotiating dynamics, may create the conditions for a new activity. Several guidelines will determine *ad hoc* activities into which the Secretariat will enter in 2003. They will hinge, *inter alia*, on the following guidelines:

- a recipient country that has had no activity listed in the Annual Plan would have initial priority in receiving an *ad hoc* activity, with particular focus on LDCs and countries from areas of special regional challenges;
- exceptional cases in which unforeseen negotiating dynamics may give rise to the design of *ad hoc* TA;

- ad hoc activities would also be implemented in the application of trade clinics.³;
- the Secretariat, with the support of its membership, would endeavour to keep within a target ceiling of ad hoc activities that would not exceed 5 per cent of planned activities; and,
- normally replacement activities for a requested planned activity would not be counted as part of ad hoc activities.

18. **Fifth**, as a principle, WTO TC/CB and this Annual Plan have been designed on the basis that *beneficiary countries and the Secretariat explicitly consider TC/CB priorities as integral parts of national development plans and strategies for poverty reduction*. This principle ensures ownership. It is also in accordance with the Doha Development Agenda, the Monterrey Consensus, and the Johannesburg WSSD, for *mainstreaming trade into overall national development plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)*.⁴ WTO Annual TA Plans should, therefore, not be considered as stand-alone TA programmes. They form part of inputs and priorities that recipient countries reflect in their development plans and PRSPs. As a result, therefore, WTO TC/CB only provide part contributions to trade development. It cannot provide all expected TRTA from beneficiary countries. This is why the 2003 Plan is based on concrete arrangements worked out with identified multilateral agencies with contributory comparative advantages in trade capacity building, 6 Regional Development Banks, the UN Regional Economic Commissions, and bilateral donors. In principle and practice, therefore, beneficiary countries also require including their TRTA priority needs into their development plans and PRSPs.

19. **Finally**, as a principle, WTO TC/CB and market access are complementary. Both provide contributions to poverty reduction and development, but they are not substitutes. Furthermore, beyond WTO TC/CB and market access, other factors are operative within beneficiary countries.

V. MEMBERS' COMMUNICATED PRIORITIES FOR 2003

20. In response to Secretariat invitations to WTO Members and observers to communicate TA/CB priorities as well as requests for discrete activities, 122 countries communicated priorities, based on 1048 activities in a descending order as follows:

- Singapore Issues (150);
- Capacity Building (internship positions, Training-for-Trainers programmes, national trade policy courses, trade policy seminars) (118);
- Trade in Services (84);
- Rules (74);
- Agriculture (57);
- Market Access (57);

³ A Secretariat Note is under preparation on Trade Clinics. When completed, this internal note will be made available to delegations for their information.

Implementation Plan of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (paragraph 84 a-e).

- TRIPS (55);
- Implementation (54);
- Trade Negotiation Courses and Doha Development Agenda Advanced Course for Senior Government Officials (49);
- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) (50);
- Trade and Environment (46);
- Integrated Framework for the Least-Developed Countries (44);
- Information Technology and WTO Reference Centres (42);
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (43);
- Dispute Settlement (25);
- Mainstreaming (25);
- Customs Valuation (24);
- Accessions (17);
- Integrated Database (17);
- 2-week Regional Trade Policy Courses (12);
- Textiles and Clothing (5).

21. In light of on-going negotiations, there has been reiterated emphasis on the explicit inclusion of a Module on Special and Differential Treatment Provisions in WTO training programmes and technical cooperation activities. As a result, a specific and articulated training module on Special and Differential Treatment will be introduced in WTO TA and training. This module is under development by the Development and Research Division. The contents will include an overview of the basic principles and objectives of S and D; a summary of the various kinds of S and D that are included in existing Agreements; types of problems that developing countries have encountered with the implementation of these provisions; the status of the debate on proposals in the Special Session of the COMTD; and an overview of the systemic issues that have emerged in the course of these discussions. The module will be applied in technical assistance and training activities in 2003.

VI. SYSTEMATIC, CUMULATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY BUILDING: NEW PRODUCTS

22. Members in their communicated priorities and requests have expressed a clear preference for systematic, cumulative and sustainable capacity building. These encompass the delivery of activities that are not one-off, but which are iterative. They involve activities such as internships, short and regular trade policy courses, training-of-trainers programme, etc. These are activities that are not only linked to the public sector, but also to the private sector, academia and/or policy think-thanks. Achieving this objective will depend partly on the Secretariat and also partly on the recipient countries in a close knit partnership. In order to achieve systematic and cumulative capacity building,

focused on training, human and institutional capacity building, the Secretariat will consolidate some activities and, in addition, has also developed key new products:

- **First**, the field 12-week regular trade policy courses for Anglophone and Francophone Africa, initiated last year, will be maintained. The evaluations resulting from the initial holding of these courses (in Nairobi, Kenya and Casablanca, Morocco) were favourable, and showed cost effectiveness. The demand exists and participating countries have attached priority to these courses. In the light of the importance attached to these courses within the Secretariat, they will be directly supervised by the Office of the Deputy Director-General responsible for technical cooperation as a WTO Secretariat-wide activity, anchored jointly in the Technical Cooperation Division and the Training Institute. The objective of these courses is for human and institutional capacity building in a manner that will enable local and regional institutions to take over the courses completely and hence engender their self-sustainability within a medium term frame. Exploratory discussions are underway with some developed and developing countries who are keen to offer similar courses in Asia and the Caribbean;
- **Second**, three (3) regional training workshops have been designed. These regional training workshops will focus on achieving Training-of-Trainers objectives in the TA programmes, which will be progressively developed. As designed these activities will seek to create a core of local/regional experts on the range of WTO subject matters who will in turn organize and conduct training themselves. This way it is hoped to create a multiplier effect through the formation of a network of local trainers. There will be two participants from each country to the regional courses. They will be selected from academic/training Institutions and from government. In line with the objective of the TOT workshops, participants will be selected from among those whose responsibility it normally is to organize and conduct training events. The three regional workshops to be run under this programme will be initiated and explained at a Launch meeting with Geneva-based delegates and the funded participation of Non-Residents, in March 2003, in Geneva;
- **Third**, the Secretariat has now elaborated on the Regional Advanced Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Negotiations Training Courses for Senior Government Officials. These courses, proposed as a response to the Doha negotiations and work programme, were signalled in Annex I of the 2002 Plan. The implementation of these courses has already begun. The courses cover 7 regions and the Non-Residents (groups with the greatest need). These courses are organized and implemented in a tripartite relationship between the WTO, a designated academic institution/policy think-tank (to serve the region), and a regional institution. These courses are distinct from the WTO 2-week short trade policy courses. At these courses for Senior Government officials, the focus is on issues arising in the Doha negotiations. The value-added is that issues in the negotiations are addressed. Resource persons are drawn from the WTO, the recipient countries, the participating regional institution, and the collaborating academic institution. The implementation of these courses has already begun (See calendar of courses at annex VI of this Plan);
- **Fourth**, the WTO internship system has now been extended, fully developed and consolidated. There are 4 components to the internship network system:
 - The Regular WTO internship, in which interns are selected locally in Geneva, by WTO Divisions. These interns work in-house for a period of 3 months.

They earn a stipend of CHF 1,500 (See WTO/COMTD/W/104/Add. 1 – page 57);

- The Dutch internship system. Interns under this programme are treated as WTO staff Members. They work in-house for a period of 2 years;
 - In addition, a WTO Regional Co-ordinator internship has been designed. In this new internship, the intern will be paid by the WTO, and will be based in the Mission of a rotating co-ordinator of each of 7 designated groups, for a period of 6 months, *without extension*. At the end of six months, the system will rotate to the next designated group co-ordinator of the 7 identified groupings. (Groups select their rotating co-ordinators). These groups are: (i) the ACP – both the Geneva Secretariat and the office of the rotating country co-ordinator; (ii) the WTO African Group; (iii) the CARICOM; (iv) the GRULAC; (v) the SAARC; (vi) the WTO LDCs' Consultative Group; and, (vii) the Informal Group of Developing Countries. The internship system will be strictly limited to these 7 groupings. Continuation will depend on the availability of resources, the feedback received from the 7 recipient regions, and to continuing need. Interns under this system will be paid CHF 3000, plus travel expenses, from the DDAGTF. Implementation will begin in January 2003 with the new TA Plan;
 - To complete the internship system, is the WTO mission internship, which has also been developed. Under this system, interns are paid for by the WTO and based in selected developing countries' missions in Geneva. These internships are offered to nationals of developing countries, including LDCs and economies in transition. Interns under this system will be paid CHF 3000 plus travel expenses. This new internship system underwent successful experimentation, on a pilot basis, with Zimbabwe and Jamaica, in the lead-up to the Doha Ministerial. Funding for these internships is provided for by bilateral donors. These donors have already pledged resources, which will permit the funding of 14 WTO mission internships over the next two-year period;
 - **To sum up on the WTO internship system**, there are several evident advantages. It will compensate for capacity shortfalls in designated groups and/or selected missions. Knowledge and understanding of the multilateral trading system and trade policy will be developed and significantly enhanced. Specialized skills will develop in the course of coverage and participation in WTO meetings and negotiating sessions by the interns. Interns will be assisted and directed to activities that focus on the Doha negotiations, and the capacity to implement WTO Agreements for their countries.
- **Fifth**, the Secretariat (the TCD; the Statistics Division; and, the Training Institute) is finalizing the development of a "Trade Negotiations Tool Kit for Negotiators". The specific purpose of this tool kit is to prepare developing and least-developed countries for the Doha Negotiations. There are three inter-related components of this Trade Negotiations Tool Kit for Negotiators:
 - A simulation package for trade negotiations, acquired by the Training Institute;

- a user friendly software for the Integrated Database/Consolidated Tariff Schedule, under development and refinement by the Statistics Division; and,
 - a software for Negotiations and Training – developed jointly by the TCD and the Inter-American Development Bank. This software will enable trade negotiators to comparatively analyze text-based proposals in the negotiations made by other parties.
- **Finally**, a TA/CB Programme Menu is under policy development. This programme menu, based on the overall priorities expressed by Members, will offer several advantages. First, it will present a set of trade capacity building choices, which will be of assistance to those countries who sometimes express difficulties to know what to ask for. Second, it will assist beneficiary members and observers in making rational choices in a way that will satisfy their expressed preference for cumulative capacity building. Third, it will make clear the expected benefits that will accrue from the selection and delivery of any particular activity on the menu. Country priority preferences will be fit under the Programme Menu, which falls into 7 categories namely:
 - (i) PROGRAMME I: OUTREACH;
 - (ii) PROGRAMME II: ACCESSIONS;
 - (iii) PROGRAMME III: NEGOTIATIONS;
 - (iv) PROGRAMME IV: IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO AGREEMENTS;
 - (v) PROGRAMME V: SINGAPORE ISSUES;
 - (vi) PROGRAMME VI: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/WTO REFERENCE CENTRES;
 - (vii) PROGRAMME VII: TRADE INTEGRATION:
 - Integrated Framework;
 - trade mainstreaming;
 - Trade Policy Reviews.

23. Choices could be optimally made either on the basis of a sequential selection or on the basis of specific domestic trade policy circumstances. This programme menu will be carefully developed and presented to the COMTD before the end of 2002.

VII. DELIVERY MODES AND INPUTS FROM TA RECIPIENTS

24. Relevant delivery modes are a necessary complement for the effective delivery of TA in the 2003 Plan. Based on Members preferences these span seminars, workshops, training activities, training-of-trainers activities, the WTO internship system, video links, short trade policy courses, collaboration with academic institutions and/or policy think-thanks. These delivery modes are all applied in this plan, based on the explicit set of preferences expressed by requesting countries. WTO modes of delivery will be further expanded to include *trade clinics*. This will involve specialized missions to developing and least-developed countries with special needs on trade policy questions that

require answers to problems arising from implementation, transition periods, and other immediate needs. The objectives of these trade clinics include institutional capacity building in the course of providing advisory services. In the course of these missions, specialized WTO staff will provide on-the-spot advice on particular trade policy problems for the government, which may include in areas that relate to trade policy, the Doha negotiations, and implementation of WTO Agreements. This new dimension of trade clinics is essential to be sure that WTO TA remains relevant.

25. Relevant delivery modes improve TA delivery. At the same time, inputs from TA recipients will enhance TA absorption. In this regard, several factors are critical namely, a well defined national programme for WTO negotiations and implementation, identification of institutions for long-term trade capacity building, and the provision of matching resources (in both hardware and software) to complement and better absorb externally delivered TA by the WTO and other agencies. South-South TA will improve the relevance and quality of trade-related technical assistance.

26. Several high income and high skilled developing countries can make and are making important contributions to provide TA to other developing countries with greater need. This is being done in several ways. These high skilled developing countries are offering scholarships to participants from least developed and developing countries, with greater need, in their training institutes, and seeking to organize joint courses with the WTO. The increase in activities of this nature would significantly enhance the capacity building effects of WTO TA.

VIII. THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING DATABASE

27. The DDA TRTA and Capacity Building database is a central pillar of present and future WTO Annual Plans for TA and CB. It is a joint project with the OECD. It was formally established through a joint announcement by the WTO Director-General and the OECD Secretary-General, on 16 May 2002. A joint formal WTO/OECD report will be presented to the General Council at its December meeting.

28. The database is a mechanism for:

- (a) Transparency of TRTA delivered;
- (b) exchange and sharing of information;
- (c) minimization and avoidance of duplication;
- (d) estimation of progress in the implementation of the Doha mandates on technical assistance and capacity building;
- (e) co-ordination and coherence;
- (f) meeting the objectives of the report mandated in paragraph 41 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration; and,
- (g) encouraging as well as assisting beneficiary countries to manage their TRTA needs (for in-country co-ordination).

29. The database will be formally launched in December, when it is presented to the General Council. It will be indispensable in monitoring the effective implementation of the TC and CB commitments in the Doha Development Agenda by showing activities delivered, co-ordinated agency delivery as undertaken in various fora, and cumulation of activities in beneficiary countries.

IX. THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

30. The 49 Least-Developed Countries have priority focus. They have the most urgent and acute trade development needs. They constitute the real challenge for the WTO. The WTO has significant contributions to make to LDCs' trade development, but on its own cannot meet the full complexity of that challenge. This is why the Integrated Framework, chaired by the WTO,⁵ is the best response to the challenge posed by the LDCs and other low income economies. There can be no quick fixes because this is capacity building for development. It is a long-drawn out process. Progress depends on a variety of factors of which WTO contributions, multilateral agency intervention, bilateral donor support, but most importantly, recipient country ownership are interdependent. Thirty-four of these LDCs are in Africa, 14 in Asia, and 1 in the Caribbean.

31. A simple approach to short term technical assistance and capacity building is necessary but insufficient for addressing the needs of the LDCs. A meaningful approach requires trade integration to ensure that trade works for poverty reduction and development. To realize this objective, TA providers (agencies and bilateral donors) and LDCs' beneficiaries need to work together so that TA and CB are delivered within a coherent policy framework, and trade priority areas of action are integrated into development vehicles such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and development plans.

32. To begin this process of TA for trade integration, the preparation of diagnostic trade integration studies for countries that have not gone through this process, is required. This is a necessary first step. This procedure is now being systematically applied to LDCs under the gradual extension of the re-vamped Integrated Framework. DTISs have been completed for three countries (i.e. Cambodia, Madagascar and Mauritania) and are underway for a second wave of 11 countries.⁶

33. The purpose of the diagnostic trade integration studies is to identify the structural weaknesses and constraints impeding a country's integration into the multilateral trading system and the global economy (in this case the LDC). These studies review and analyze a country's export and import performance, assess the macroeconomic environment and investment climate, assess the international policy environment, including the market access constraints to a country's exports, and analyze specific sectors for output expansion, exports and employment. These studies conclude with recommendations for policy reforms, institutional capacity implications and action plans (of priority TA recommendations) for eliminating the constraints and taking advantage of the opportunities.

34. The role of trade capacity building for trade integration, following priority recommendations in the DTIS, will include support for policy and regulation formulation, development of capacity to implement policy, sector-specific support, infrastructure support (for example, energy, transportation, communication, information technology, customs modernization, laboratories for testing to meet international standards, etc). Attached to this 2003 TA Plan, as annex VII, is the calendar for DTIS being implemented in the LDCs.

35. The 2003 TA Plan essentially focuses on the assistance that the WTO can deliver. In the 2003 TA Plan, LDCs will receive:

- (a) 117 national activities (or 47% of the total number of WTO national TA activities);

⁵ The Integrated Framework is composed of the International Monetary Fund, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization; two rotating donor representatives, and two LDCs' rotating representatives.

⁶ WT/IFSC/W/11/Rev.1

- (b) 150 regional activities from which the LDCs will also benefit as members of the regions of Africa, Asia/Pacific; and the Caribbean;
- (c) 4 strategically designed activities focused only on LDCs namely, WTO Reference Centres Training Activities, with the objective of Training-of-Trainers; Internet access for LDC Reference Centres; annual accessions seminar; Workshop on Trade Negotiation Skills; and, the Advanced Training Programme for Senior Government officials on the DDA; and
- (d) the Integrated Framework focused exclusively on LDCs, with the decision by Heads of Agency at their last meeting, to extend it to all LDCs before the conclusion of the Doha trade negotiations, on the basis of the agreed criteria.

X. SPECIAL REGIONAL CHALLENGES – AFRICA, SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA, PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND THE CARIBBEAN

A. NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

36. As noted in the lessons drawn from the implementation of the 2002 TA Plan, Africa is one of the three regions of most dire trade policy need. The WTO Secretariat has designed several activities to respond to the pressing needs for institutional trade policy and capacity building needs in Africa. The JITAP has made, and continues to make, an important contribution to Africa's needs.

37. The New Partnership for African Development, NEPAD, is a commitment by African leaders to eradicate poverty and place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development. It is a long-term vision of an African-owned and African-led development programme.

38. At the moment, the WTO does not yet have a formal relationship with the NEPAD. However, the WTO is exploring ways of cooperating with the NEPAD in future. In this regard, active consultations are underway between the Secretariat (the Technical Cooperation Division) and the NEPAD Secretariat. The Head of the NEPAD Secretariat was invited to address the membership at the 41st session of the COMTD on 1 July 2002. This dialogue is expected to continue, and will focus on the contributions that trade and the multilateral trading system can make to support the NEPAD, and to Africa's trade development.

39. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in Johannesburg, Director-General Dr Supachai pledged WTO support for the NEPAD, and expressed a commitment to identify concrete WTO programmes and projects in support of the NEPAD. In this regard, a Secretariat Note is currently under preparation.

B. THE JOINT INTEGRATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

40. The Joint Integrated Programme for African Countries (JITAP), jointly undertaken by the WTO, ITC and UNCTAD, has played a critical and positive role in strengthening human and institutional capacity building in 8 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda), from 1997 to the present. The programme was recently reviewed, with recommendations made for its improvement and enhancement. A JITAP Management Meeting of donors, beneficiaries and the three executing agencies has re-affirmed commitments to a new phase of JITAP, which will focus on the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda. In this regard, donors have emphasised the necessity to adapt the JITAP to poverty reduction, in addition to its original focus on human and institutional capacity building. Several donors have underscored the necessity of complementarity between the JITAP and the Integrated Framework. The Management Review has also made evident the necessity to gear the JITAP to respond to the trade

and development needs of the beneficiary countries. A decision has been taken by the Management Committee to consolidate and complete outstanding programmes in the first phase of JITAP II. The next phase of JITAP II will involve a menu-based (*à la carte*) approach to the needs of new beneficiary countries. A decision is yet to be taken on the number of countries prior to their selection.

C. SOUTH ASIA – SOUTH ASIA ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION

41. Countries in South Asia also require priority attention in the delivery of WTO TA. The South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) comprises seven South Asian countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These countries are involved in trade negotiations for regional cooperation and in the WTO Doha negotiations, including those involved in the accession negotiations. They constitute a region of special TA challenge and require enhanced TA. There are different levels of development amongst countries in the region. Special attention is focused on the LDCs in the region. This is a region where some of the countries like India and Pakistan with higher skill levels will be of assistance in providing TA for trade institutional capacity building to the other countries in the region. These countries will benefit from specially designed national and regional activities in the 2003 WTO TA Plan, as well as from the consolidated WTO internship programme.

D. PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

42. Pacific Island countries face particular difficulties adapting their economies to take advantage of increased global trade and economic integration. Three Pacific Island countries (Fiji, PNG and Solomon Islands) are WTO members and three (Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga) are in the process of accession. The Pacific Island countries exhibit an unparalleled diversity of culture and language as well as great variation in physical and political characteristics. Yet they have many challenges in common. Pacific Island economies are very small, remote from markets and vulnerable to natural and economic forces. Five are Least Developed Countries. None of them have strong institutional capacity for trade policy or resident representation in Geneva. Consequently, the Pacific Islands face considerable challenges in trade policy negotiating and have special needs for trade-related technical assistance. WTO TRTA is essential to help equip them to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system, including to engage effectively in trade negotiations.

E. THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

43. Countries in the Caribbean face significant trade policy and trade development challenges as well. These countries are small in market size. Ten of the fourteen CARICOM countries are non-residents. Only 4 have missions in Geneva. In spite of their low institutional capacity for trade policy formulation, advocacy, and negotiations, they are nevertheless, confronted with several major negotiations that are taking place at the same time. These include the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between the ACP and the EU; negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); the Caribbean Common Market negotiations; multiple bilateral negotiations; and, the Doha negotiations. Director-General Dr. Supachai has met the Caribbean Ministers to review areas of concern and priorities. WTO Secretariat officials are working closely with the region to boost their negotiating capacity; and in this regard is cooperating closely with the CARICOM Secretariat, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). WTO TA will be delivered through national and regionally designed activities, and deeper support provided through the extended system of WTO internships for Regional Co-ordinators and Capacity Constrained Missions. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and its Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL), are joined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for assistance to the entire region. The strategic framework for targeted assistance to the Caribbean is based on an MOU with the CARICOM Secretariat. The Organization

of American States is in close collaboration with the WTO in the training for Senior Government officials on the DDA Trade Negotiation Course with the University of the West Indies (UWI).

F. CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

44. Two countries in Central Asia are WTO Members (Kyrgyz Republic and Georgia). All the others are engaged in the accession process, with the exception of Turkmenistan, which is still contemplating accession. The importance of the negotiations is even more acute, as their productive capacity has often been negatively affected by distorted policies of the past, which added to the difficulties of adjustment to open, market based economic policies. Some countries in the region have levels of economic development that do not substantially differ from those of developing countries, with similar per capita incomes and GDP. The trade policy negotiating challenges for these countries are thus quite considerable, as this is the first real opportunity for most of these countries to be actively involved in any multilateral negotiating process. WTO TA is geared, at this moment, towards a fuller and better participation of Central Asian Countries in the multilateral trading system, through dissemination of information and knowledge on the WTO Agreements on both a broad and specific level. One WTO Ministerial Trade Conference was held before the summer to specifically address the concerns of countries in the region. WTO's technical assistance programme is cumulative and includes a mix of offer and supply, targeted at various levels of decision-making within national administrations and across the region. Collaboration with other international, regional and sub-regional organisations has been developed and strengthened (through close cooperation with ECO, BSEC, EBRD, UNECE, UNCTAD, JVI, APEC, bilateral and multilateral donors). Previously, countries in the region were largely excluded from WTO's technical assistance programmes funded under the regular budget, this situation has now significantly changed with the establishment of the WTO Global Trust Fund for technical assistance. More activities have been scheduled for these countries in the 2003 TA Plan.

XI. GENEVA WEEK FOR THE NON-RESIDENTS

45. Geneva Week for WTO Non-Residents was innovative. It responded to one of the most felt needs in WTO trade capacity building in recent times. This year, it was increased from one to two, and is now funded from the WTO regular budget. The main value of Geneva Week is that it provides the opportunity for non-residents to interact with the Geneva-based work of the WTO. The main channels through which this happens are briefings by the chairs of WTO bodies, and/or the secretariat; participation in formal and informal meetings of the WTO. Geneva week is usually timed to coincide with meetings of major WTO bodies such as the TNC, the General Council, negotiating groups, or the CTD; and informal interaction with resident delegations. During the Geneva Week held prior to the Doha ministerial, non-residents met with the chair of the General Council to state their views on inputs into the draft ministerial declaration. It should be emphasised that the type of presentation given by chairpersons or the secretariat are not training sessions. They are briefings on the state of play of WTO work. As such Geneva Week is a key element in technical co-operation and training activities undertaken by the WTO as part of its annual plans. It should also be noted that during Geneva week, participants receive hands-on training on Information Technology tools. In expressing their satisfaction with the functioning of Geneva Week, several participants have referred to it as "the Standing WTO Committee of most importance to them". Geneva Weeks in 2003 will be timed to coincide with meetings and preparations for the Cancun Ministerial.

XII. RESEARCH FOR TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING

46. There are strong technical assistance and capacity-building effects emanating from policy-relevant research. As in the implementation of the 2002 Annual TA Plan, research by the WTO Development and Economic Research Division will continue to provide factual and analytical information for the use of developing countries in the negotiations. The research agenda of the WTO

Secretariat, for which the DERD is responsible, will continue to provide a sound and critical basis for trade capacity building. This aspect of capacity building is now evident in the on-going implementation of the WTO Work Programme for the Least-Developed Countries, and the request for analytical studies by several countries in their inputs into the 2003 TA Plan. Most of the research for trade capacity building will be met by the WTO Secretariat (the DERD and the Trade Policy Review Division). Least-developed and other developing country research will be met through inter-agency diagnostic trade integration studies. Fourteen of such studies are already underway for the LDCs. In addition, WTO trade capacity building research will be undertaken in cooperation with the OECD, UNCTAD, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank.

XIII. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: AGENCIES, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF THE OECD

47. Inter-agency arrangements and strategic partnerships are essential in order to fully respond to the technical co-operation mandates in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. These arrangements are necessary to complement areas of competence beyond the WTO. These arrangements require tremendous and continuing efforts in co-ordination. In this regard, the WTO is working at four distinct but inter-related levels namely:

- (a) The Integrated Framework, focused on the Least-Developed Countries. Director-General Dr Supachai will be chairing a meeting of the Integrated Framework Working Group at the level of Heads of Agency, in June/July, 2003. Mr. Koehler, IMF Managing Director has agreed to host the meeting. This meeting will give further impetus to IF implementation and follow-up
- (b) The JITAP, focused on selected African countries. On 30 October, 2002, Director-General Dr Supachai convened a Heads of Agency Meeting with UNCTAD Secretary-General Mr Rubens Ricupero and ITC Executive Director Mr Denis Belisle, where the three Agency Heads re-iterated their strategic partnerships and agreed to meet twice a year. Joint activities for a more effective technical assistance and capacity building was a focus of the meeting. Mr Ricupero offered to host the next meeting
- (c) Dialogue already initiated with the World Bank and the six major Regional Development Banks.⁷ The foundation for this partnership was laid at the first-ever WTO-World Bank Regional Development Bank Dialogue Forum, on 3 May 2002. The understanding was reached, *inter alia*, that the WTO, the World Bank and the 6 major Regional Development Banks would work together in partnership. Regional Development Banks will convene meetings of Trade and Finance Ministers in their region to which the World Bank and the WTO would be invited. The purposes would include, *inter alia*, preparing diagnostic trade integration studies, pursuing effective follow-up to these studies, implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building mandates in the Doha Development Agenda, and the overall objective of *mainstreaming* trade into PRSPs and national development plans. Concrete activities have already begun with the collaborative delivery of trade policy courses and negotiation courses between the WTO, the Regional Development Banks, and relevant regional institutions. A working level meeting between the WTO, the Regional Development Banks, and United Nations Regional Economic Commissions,

⁷ African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

was held on 30 October 2002. Concrete and positive agreements were reached at the meeting. A full report will be provided to the membership; and,

- (d) The meeting of the core multilateral agencies⁸ and the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. The first meeting was held from 17 to 18 January 2002. The second will be held from 28 to 29 November 2002. A relevant report will be prepared for the COMTD and for the General Council.

48. Further developments on inter-agency arrangements and strategic partnerships will be reported in periodic revisions of the Secretariat Note prepared in this regard for the High Level Meeting on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building (WT/COMTD/W/102).

XIV. THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA GLOBAL TRUST FUND

49. In its decision of December 2001, the General Council established the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDA GTF) and defined its terms of reference. The establishment of the Fund gave strong and positive impetus to the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building mandates in the Doha Development Agenda. It has created a solid basis for more predictable funding of WTO technical cooperation and capacity building. It has facilitated the smooth implementation of the 2002 TA Plan. Donors have responded very positively to the creation of the DDAGTF and provided significantly increased resources to the Secretariat in 2002. Pledges registered for 2002 reached CHF 21.5 million (almost double the amount received in 2001), exceeding by far the target of CHF 15 million initially approved by the General Council. The unprecedented scale in WTO technical assistance activities has made the Secretariat all the more conscious of its responsibilities in terms of cost effectiveness and meaningful delivery of TA in the areas of the Doha mandates. The Director-General and Senior management are determined to keep improving the cost efficiency, rationality, and transparency in the use of resources made available through the DDAGTF. Resources in the DDAGTF will be used to fund Annual WTO TA Plans and the implementation of the New WTO Strategy for Technical Cooperation.

50. Due to the complexity of subject-matter, increased scale of operations, and the many conflicting demands on the Secretariat, it is considered that guidelines will be necessary for the use of the resources of the DDAGTF. This will require guidance from the membership.

XV. 2003 TA ACTIVITIES

51. Designed activities are listed in Addendum 1/Rev.1 to this document.

⁸ IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank, WTO.

ANNEX I: WTO SECRETARIAT LETTER TO THE OECD/DAC

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Mr. Jean-Claude Faure
Chairman
Development Assistance Committee
OECD
2, rue André-Pascal,
75775 Paris Cedex

Fax: 33 1 44 30 61 41

Reference: **ns02/mo/TA2003/oecd-dac rev**

23 August 2002

Dear Mr. Faure,

The WTO Secretariat is now in the process of preparing the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, pursuant to the Doha Development Agenda. In light of recent meetings and consultations with the DAC members, I write to seek your support for responding to the trade capacity priority needs, which have been formally communicated to the WTO Secretariat by beneficiary countries.

As you already know, in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Ministers undertook specific commitments on technical cooperation and capacity building in eleven key areas. You will recall, I am sure, paragraph 39 of the Declaration, in which Ministers underscored the urgent necessity for the effective coordinated delivery of technical assistance with bilateral donors, in the OECD Development Assistance Committee and relevant international and regional intergovernmental institutions, within a coherent policy framework and timetable.

Immediately after Doha, the WTO Secretariat prepared the first Technical Assistance Plan. We are in the process of preparing the second Plan, based on the Doha technical assistance commitments. A key area of improvement in the Technical Assistance Plan is the necessity for partnership with agencies, regional institutions and donor countries, with comparative advantages in trade capacity building. The WTO is convinced that the OECD/DAC has vital and indispensable contributions to make in responding to the implementation of the trade capacity building commitments in the Doha Development Agenda. We are pleased with the positive response and support that we have received from your institution in meeting this challenge, and we look forward to deepening this partnership for next year.

As part of the process for designing the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, the WTO Secretariat formally requested beneficiary countries to communicate their priority needs. The response has been very good and extremely useful. The WTO Secretariat has formally received over 1,000 requests for specific activities from about 104 countries. On the basis of these formally communicated requests, the WTO Secretariat will be able to implement two activities per requesting country (three activities for each least-developed country) and approximately 150 highly specialised and focused regional activities, from which all requesting countries will benefit. These activities will be those within the comparative advantage of the WTO. In sum, these will total approximately 400 activities.

./..

For those activities to which the WTO Secretariat cannot respond as an individual agency and needs to work in partnership with others, it is suggested that you kindly consider any possible appropriate response that you can offer. It is felt that bilateral donors, within the framework of the OECD/DAC, have a key role of play, in recognition of the importance of trade in development as expressed in the DAC Guidelines on *Strengthening Trade Capacity for Development*.

I will shortly forward a compilation of specific activities not included in the 2003 WTO Technical Assistance Plan, which the OECD/DAC could consider with a view to providing appropriate responses. I would like to consult with you on appropriate follow-up on this important subject for the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda. I have written along the same lines to multilateral and regional donors.

Finally, I would like to re-emphasise the importance the WTO Secretariat attaches to deepening the partnership with the OECD/DAC. Indeed, the joint IAWG/OECD meeting scheduled for 28-29 November 2002, following the meeting held on 17-18 January this year, which we jointly chaired, will be yet another excellent opportunity to take forward this partnership, and more specifically to take stock of progress in our collective response to the trade-related technical assistance and capacity building challenges. I will be in touch with you shortly to discuss the planning of this important meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Chiedu Osakwe
Technical Cooperation Division

ANNEX II: WTO SECRETARIAT LETTER TO THE WORLD BANK

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Mr. Uri Dadush
Director
Trade Department
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW,
Washington, D.C. 20433

Fax: 1 202 522 2578

Reference: **ns02/mo/TA2003/WB**

22 August 2002

Dear Mr. Dadush,

The WTO Secretariat is now in the process of preparing the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, pursuant to the Doha Development Agenda. In light of recent meetings and consultations with the World Bank, I write to seek your support for responding to the trade capacity priority needs, which have been formally communicated to the WTO Secretariat by beneficiary countries.

As you already know, in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Ministers undertook specific commitments on technical cooperation and capacity building in eleven key areas. Immediately after Doha, the WTO Secretariat prepared the first Technical Assistance Plan. We are in the process of preparing the second Plan, based on the Doha technical assistance commitments. A key area of improvement in the Technical Assistance Plan is the necessity for partnership with agencies, regional institutions and donor countries, with comparative advantages in trade capacity building. The WTO is convinced that the World Bank has vital and indispensable contributions to make in the implementation of the trade capacity building commitments in the Doha Development Agenda. We are pleased with the positive response and support that we have received from your institution in meeting this challenge, and we look forward to deepening this partnership for next year.

As part of the process for designing the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, the Secretariat formally requested beneficiary countries to communicate their priority needs. The response has been very good and extremely useful. The Secretariat has formally received over 1,000 requests for specific activities from about 104 countries. On the basis of these formally communicated requests, the Secretariat will be able to implement two activities per requesting country (three activities for each least-developed country) and approximately 150 highly specialised and focused regional activities, from which all requesting countries will benefit. These activities will be those within the comparative advantage of the WTO. In sum, these will total approximately 400 activities.

For those activities to which the WTO Secretariat cannot respond as an individual agency and needs to work in partnership with others, it is suggested that you kindly consider any possible appropriate response that the Bank can offer. It is felt that the World Bank has a key role to play, particularly in its capacity as the leader in trade mainstreaming process by core multilateral agencies, and in light of the discussions by the Heads of Agency and the Joint Communiqué agreed at their meeting at the World Bank on 26 February 2002.

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I will shortly forward a compilation of specific activities not included in the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, for which the World Bank could consider specific responses that it could provide. Thereafter, I propose to undertake consultations with identified multilateral, regional and bilateral technical assistance providers who could provide responses, in support of the DDA.

Sincerely yours,

Chiedu Osakwe
Technical Cooperation Division

ANNEX III: LETTER TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

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See list of 6 Regional Development Banks

Reference: **HLS/100** (n:\tc\regbank\let-23oct)

16 August 2002

Dear Mr.-----,

I would like to recall the dialogue that WTO Director-General Mike Moore initiated with the six major regional development banks and the World Bank on 3 May 2002. Also please recall the follow-up letter to the dialogue by the Director-General on 3 June 2002. I have been requested to pursue follow-up on the basis of the understanding that emerged at the dialogue, and communicated in the 3 June letter by the Director-General.

As suggested in the letter by the Director-General, regional development banks have a significant and substantive contribution to make in such areas as (i) the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda; and (ii) preparation of country-specific Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs) for countries in your region (not necessarily LDCs). Several of these countries are requesting for such studies. We could advance a WTO-Regional Development Bank partnership in these two areas in the context of the WTO Technical Assistance Plan for 2003, which focuses on trade capacity building priority needs of countries.

The WTO Secretariat, in active consultation with the WTO membership, has just initiated the preparatory process for the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, involving countries in your region. We would like your Bank to be a key part of this process in partnership with the WTO.

The DTISs, three of which have been prepared for the LDCs under the Integrated Framework, have proved to be an effective instrument for assessing the competitiveness of an economy, and for identifying the impediments to the meaningful integration of the country into the multilateral trading system and the global economy. These diagnostics have provided an effective mechanism for building domestic consensus for necessary policy reform, for prioritising the needs of trade-related technical assistance and capacity building, for co-ordinating donor responses to the identified needs, and for stimulating necessary supply-side responses. As demands for DTISs are increasing from non-LDC developing countries, I would like to invite regional development banks to consider the joint undertaking of preparing DTISs in non-LDC developing countries located in your region, in partnership with the WTO.

In light of the foregoing, I would like to invite your designated representative to a meeting of the Regional Development Banks and the WTO. It would be useful if this representative could be your Bank's focal point on WTO-Regional Development Bank matters. I propose that the meeting will be convened on 30 October 2002, starting at 9.00 a.m., at the WTO building in Geneva. The purpose of the meeting would be to explore a partnership on the two suggested areas. A draft agenda would be forwarded to your designated representative.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to invite your designated representative to the second seminar on trade mainstreaming and the Integrated Framework, entitled "Integrating Trade into Development Strategies: The Role of Policy, Technical assistance, and Capacity building.", which will be held on 31 October and 1 November 2002. The seminar is organised by the IF core agencies (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank, and WTO). The programme for this seminar is attached to this letter.

I would be grateful if you could provide the name of your representative to the above meeting and seminar to Ms. Maika Oshikawa (tel: 41 22 739 5643; fax: 41 22 739 5764; e-mail: maika.oshikawa@wto.org) by 15 September 2002. Please feel free to contact myself or Ms. Oshikawa, if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Chiedu Osakwe
Director
Technical Cooperation Division

ANNEX IV: LETTER TO UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Economic and Social Commission for Asia/Pacific
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America/Caribbean
Economic Commission for Africa

Reference: **HLS/100** (n:\tc\regbanks\23octESCWA)

16 August 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you know, the Doha Ministerial Declaration, adopted by Trade Ministers last November, confirmed technical cooperation and capacity building as core elements of the development dimension of the multilateral trading system. Moreover, Ministers stressed the critical importance of coordination with other inter-governmental organisations, including with regional development banks and economic commissions, for the realisation of the Doha Development Agenda. This message was reiterated by the heads of the six major regional development banks at their meeting with the WTO Director-General on 3 May 2002 (see attached the report of the meeting).

At the 3 May meeting, it was suggested that regional development banks and regional economic commissions had a significant and substantive contribution to make in such areas as (i) the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda; and (ii) preparation of country-specific Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTISs) for countries in your region (not necessarily LDCs), several of who are requesting for such studies. I believe that we could advance a WTO-Regional Economic Commission partnership in these two areas in the context of the WTO Technical Assistance Plan for 2003, which focuses on trade capacity building priority needs of countries.

The WTO Secretariat, in active consultation with the WTO membership, has just initiated the preparatory process for the 2003 Technical Assistance Plan, involving countries in your region. We would like your Commission to be a key part of this process in partnership with the WTO.

The DTISs, three of which have been prepared for the LDCs under the Integrated Framework, have proved to be an effective instrument for assessing the competitiveness of an economy, and for identifying the impediments to the meaningful integration of the country into the multilateral trading system and the global economy. These diagnostics have provided an effective mechanism for building domestic consensus for necessary policy reform, for prioritising the needs of trade-related technical assistance and capacity building, for co-ordinating donor responses to the identified needs, and for stimulating necessary supply-side responses. As demands for DTISs are increasing from non-LDC developing countries, I would like to invite regional economic commissions to consider exploring a partnership for preparing DTISs in non-LDC developing countries located in your region with the WTO.

./..

In light of the foregoing, I would like to invite your designated representative to a meeting of the Regional Economic Commissions and the WTO. It would be useful if this representative could be your Commission's focal point on WTO-Regional Economic Commission trade capacity building matters. I propose that the meeting will be convened on 30 October 2002, starting at 2.00 p.m., at the WTO building in Geneva. The purpose of the meeting would be to explore a partnership on the two suggested areas. A draft agenda would be forwarded to your designated representative.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite your designated representative to the second seminar on trade mainstreaming and the Integrated Framework, entitled "Integrating Trade into Development Strategies: The Role of Policy, Technical assistance, and Capacity building.", which will be held from 31 October and 1 November 2002. The seminar is organised by the IF core agencies (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank, and WTO). The programme for this seminar is attached to this letter.

I would be grateful if you could provide the name of your representative to the above meeting and seminar to Ms. Maika Oshikawa (tel: 41 22 739 5643; fax: 41 22 739 5764; e-mail: maika.oshikawa@wto.org) by 15 September 2002. Please feel free to contact myself or Ms. Oshikawa, if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Chiedu Osakwe
Director
Technical Cooperation Division

**ANNEX V: INDIVIDUAL LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRIES
REQUESTING TA FOR THE 2003 PLAN**

Direct line: (+41 22) 739 5250
Direct fax: (+41 22) 739 5764
Email: chiedu.osakwe@wto.org

F A X

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|----------|
| To: | Countries Requesting TA for 2003 Plan | Fax No: | See list |
| From: | Chiedu Osakwe Director Technical Cooperation Division | Date: | 13/08/02 |
| Number of pages (including this one): | 1 | Ref: | TEC/100 |

Dear ,

Thank you for your communication dated ----- 2002 pertaining to your Government's requests for trade-related technical assistance and capacity building activities for the year 2003.

Your request will be examined internally in the Secretariat and in consultation with your Delegation, in light of the commitments on technical cooperation and capacity building in the Doha Development Agenda.

Mr. ----- in the Technical Cooperation Division and Regional Coordinator for -----, will shortly contact your Delegation. He will consult on your priorities and seek to reach mutual agreement on the TRTA/CB activities for your country (both at the national and regional levels). The results of the consultations will be incorporated into the Coordinated WTO Technical Assistance Plan for 2003.

As you already know, the 2003 TA Plan will be considered by the Membership in the Committee on Trade and Development, and its financial implications discussed by the Budget, Finance and Administration Committee.

For those trade-related technical assistance and capacity building requests to which the WTO will not be able to respond as an individual agency, we will ensure that they are transmitted to the competent multilateral agencies as part of the process of inter-agency coordination, to bilateral donors, members of the DAC/OECD, and to the Regional Development Banks (RDBs). For such requests, follow-up will be required on both our parts.

Yours sincerely,

Chiedu Osakwe
Director
Technical Cooperation Division

**ANNEX VI: CALENDAR FOR THE DDA NEGOTIATION TRAINING COURSE FOR
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

| Country Grouping | Date | Regional Body | Academic Institution | Cost-sharing arrangement (WTO/Regional body) | TCD contact |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Latin America | 10 – 21 June 2002 | Organization of American States | Georgetown University, Washington | 0/100 | Gómez Torán |
| Arab Countries | Dec 2002 /Jan 2003 | Arab Monetary Fund | Foreign Trade Training Centre/ American University of Cairo/Cairo University | 50/50 | Seif El Yazal |
| Central and Eastern Europe | 15-29 October 2002 | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development | Joint Vienna Institute | | Smeets |
| English-speaking Africa | Nov/Dec 2002 | NEPAD & African Development Bank | Stellenbosch University, South Africa | | Yeboah |
| Asia and the Pacific | 28 April – 10 May 2003 | Asian Development Bank | Beijing University | 75/25 | Krommenacker |
| Non-resident | April 2003 [back-to-back with Geneva Week] | | IMD, Lausanne | | Osakwe Blank Oshikawa |
| Caribbean countries | 2003 | Organization of American States | University of the West Indies, Barbados | | Gómez Torán |
| French-speaking Africa | 2003 | NEPAD & African Development Bank | AfDB Training Institute, Abidjan | | Yeboah |
| Central Asian and Caucasus | 2003 | Centre for Trade Policy and Law, Canada | Tbilisi, Georgia | 75/25 | Smeets |
| LDCs | 2003 | Bangladesh | TBC | TBC | Sajal Mathur/ J.-M. Fortin |

List of invited Members and Observers*

East Asia and the Pacific (29): Bangladesh; Bhutan*; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia*; China, People's Republic of; Chinese Taipei; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Korea; Republic of; Lao People's Democratic*; Macau, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal*; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Samoa*; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Tonga*; Vanuatu*; Viet Nam*.

French-speaking Africa (26): *Algeria**, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde*, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo Dem. Rep., Côte d'Ivoire, *Djibouti*, Equatorial Guinea*, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, *Mauritania*, *Morocco*, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, *Tunisia*.

English-speaking Africa (21): Botswana, *Egypt*, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles*, Sierra Leone, South Africa, *Sudan**, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Latin America (18): Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Caribbean countries (15): Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

Central and South East Europe (17): Albania, Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia.

Central Asian and Caucasus Countries (11): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Arab Countries (16): *Algeria**, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon*, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia*, Sudan*, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen*

Non-residents (35): Andorra*, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia*, Bahamas*, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Laos*, Macao, China, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Samoa*, Sao Tome and Principe*, Seychelles*, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Tonga*, Uzbekistan*, Vanuatu*

ANNEX VII: CALENDAR OF EXTENSION OF THE INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK TO THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

| Item | Milestones | Planned delivery date |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Malawi Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 28 Nov.-8 Dec. 2001 |
| | IF Mission | 27 April 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 June 2002 |
| | Workshop | 15 Sept. 2002 |
| | Final Version | |
| Senegal Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 9-16 Nov. 2001 |
| | IF Mission | 4-15 Feb 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 June 2002 |
| | Workshop | 30 July 2002 |
| | Final Version | |
| Lesotho Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 28 Nov. – 14 Dec. 2001 |
| | IF Mission | 22 March – 1 April 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 June 2002 |
| | Workshop | 15 July 2002 |
| | Final version | |
| Yemen Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 4-13 Feb. 2002 |
| | IF Mission | 15 May 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 15 July 2002 |
| | Workshop | 15 Sept. 2002 |
| | Final version | |
| Ethiopia Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 20 June 2002 |
| | IF Mission | 15 September 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 November 2002 |
| | Workshop | 1 January 2002 |
| | Final version | |
| Nepal Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 15 Aug. 2002 |
| | IF Mission | 30 Sept. 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 15 Feb. 2003 |
| | Workshop | 15 March 2003 |
| | Final version | |
| Eritrea Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 15 July 2002 |
| | IF Mission | 15 Sept. 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 Nov. 2002 |
| | Workshop | 15 Feb. 2003 |
| | Final version | |
| Djibouti Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | tbd |
| | IF Mission | tbd |
| | Delivery to client | tbd |
| | Workshop | tbd |
| | Final version | tbd |
| Burundi Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 15 Sept. 2002 |

| Item | Milestones | Planned delivery date |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | IF Mission | 15 Nov. 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 Jan. 2003 |
| | Workshop | 15 March 2002 |
| | Final version | |
| | | |
| Guinea Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 15 July 2002 |
| | IF Mission | 15 Sept. 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 Nov. 2002 |
| | Workshop | 15 Feb.2003 |
| | Final version | |
| | | |
| Mali Trade Integration Study | Pre-mission visit | 15 July 2002 |
| | IF Mission | 15 Sept. 2002 |
| | Delivery to client | 30 Nov. 2002 |
| | Workshop | 15 Feb. 2003 |
| | Final version | |
