

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

QUESTIONNAIRE CONCERNING THE WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TBT AGREEMENT

Note by the Secretariat

At its meeting of 25 February 2000, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade agreed to hold a Workshop on Technical Assistance and Special and Differential Treatment in the context of the TBT Agreement this year.

The workshop would provide the opportunity for Members that require technical assistance to inform Members of the Committee and relevant organizations of any difficulties encountered and technical assistance needed in the TBT area. At the same time, Members and international organizations which provide technical assistance in this respect can make use of this occasion to communicate to the Committee any information concerning their technical assistance programmes. The objective is to help better targeting technical assistance, avoid duplication and promote further cooperation and coordination among donor Members and organizations, aiming at developing efficient and effective technical assistance programmes on the various areas related to the TBT Agreement.

In order to facilitate the organization of the workshop and aiming at obtaining a good result, Members, in particular developing country Members, are hereby invited to identify any difficulties they encounter in the implementation and operation of the Agreement, and the kind of technical assistance they may need. As noted at the First Triennial Review (G/TBT/5), these may include matters related to:

- the submission of statements under Article 15.2;
- the implementation of the provisions regarding notification obligations;
- the implementation of the provisions of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards;
- the preparation adoption and application of technical regulations;
- the difficulties and problems encountered in relation to international standards/guides;
- the establishment of national standardizing bodies, regulatory bodies and bodies for the assessment of conformity;
- the participation in the international standardizing bodies;
- the development of operational conformity assessment procedures;
- the access to regional/international systems for conformity assessment;

- the methods by which technical regulations of other Members could best be met;
- the development of human and institutional resources; and
- other capacity building issues.

Members are invited to submit any relevant information to the Secretariat before mid-April.

Those Members who wish to nominate speakers to make presentations on the various topics at the Workshop, are also invited to contact the Secretariat (Ms. Vivien Liu, tel: 739 5455 and fax: 739 5620) before that date.
