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**Committee on Trade and Development
Integrated Framework for Trade-Related
Technical Assistance**

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TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS-ASSESSMENT PRESENTED BY MYANMAR

**INTEGRATED RESPONSES BY IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP,
WORLD BANK AND WTO¹**

MYANMAR

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**TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS-ASSESSMENT
PRESENTED BY MYANMAR**

A. TRADE POLICY

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

Sectors with unexploited export potential:

- Sericulture production;
- hydroelectricity;
- horticulture production.

Sectors with under exploited potential:

- Handicrafts including silverware and furniture;
- energy;
- textiles and clothing;
- agro-processing industry;
- tourism sector;
- mining sector;
- fresh fruits and vegetables;
- gems and jewellery;
- fisheries and marine products;
- wood processing;
- labour exports.

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

The main reasons for changes intervening in the export-import structure:

- The growing level of the country's economic development;
- the new orientation is to liberalize its economy in the context of globalization;
- the current inflow of foreign direct investment in sectors which have export potential;
- the substantial trade deficit of Myanmar requiring the government to focus on increase in exports;
- limited transfer of technology in producing export of high-quality products;
- price fluctuation of unprocessed products;
- entry into the intra-ASEAN trade.

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

Recent trade policy objectives:

- Proper evolution of a market-oriented economic system;
- wider participation of the private sector in foreign trade.

(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)?

Trade Council, Myanmar Investment Commission, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Ministry of Industry (I), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries, Ministry of Science and Technology are playing major roles in the formulation, implementation, enforcement and monitoring of trade policy matters.

High-Level Committees and line - Ministries in charge of Trade Policy Matters:

Trade Council

- Formulates and adopts trade policies which ensure State's political, economic, and social objectives in implementing the market-oriented economic system;
- regulates and controls, in accordance with the trade policies, the foreign trade in the interest of the State and its citizens;
- defines the priority commodity groups and quantity of the priority import items according to the requirement of the people and of the State as well;
- carries out the tasks occasionally laid down by the State Peace and Development Council;

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC)

Accepts proposals which will promote the development activities and which is in line with the rules and regulations laid down by the State, scrutinizes the proposals on economic, financial and technical aspects and grants terms and conditions on issuance of permits, monitors and evaluates the foreign investment situation.

Ministry of Commerce

- Ministry of Commerce carries out trade policies adopted by, and is under the direction of the Trade Council;
- Ministry of Commerce delegates the Directorate of Trade and Department of Border Trade to issue export/import licences and permits for the private sector's participation in foreign trade.

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development (NPED)

- NPED deals with the Economic affairs and also directly controls the National AFTA unit. Fifteen other Ministries interact with the Ministry of NPED in their respective fields. For the private sector, the Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry interacts with the Ministry of NPED.
- National AFTA unit operates under the following terms of reference:
 - (i) Implementation of CEPT for AFTA;
 - (ii) public Relations;
 - (iii) channel of communication;
 - (iv) overall ASEAN Economic Cooperation;
 - (v) role in Economic Development;
 - (vi) others.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue (F&R)

- Undertakes the Tariff policies directly affecting exports and imports of goods and services;
- the custom duty together with the commercial tax are collected at the point of entry and the time of clearance of imported goods;
- import tariff covers 21 sections of 98 chapters, consisting of 1241 headings and 6062 sub-headings based on Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System. There are 22 bands of import tariffs ranging from 0 to 40 per cent. Raw materials and other essential imports are taxed at very low rates, while the highest rate is applied to luxury items;
- commercial tax is charged on a wide range of goods either domestically produced or imported goods under the Commercial Tax Act 1991, the rates of 5 per cent, 10 per cent, 20 per cent, 30 per cent on imported goods and it is above 30 per cent on specific types of goods such as cigarette, liquor, etc.

Ministry of Industry (I)

- Ministry of Industry (I) endorsed recommendation in the application of the export licences for the Private Sector's export of ready-made garment to the countries which do not have quota limitations;
- Ministry of Industry (I) undertakes the quota allocation of ready-made garments export to USA and Canada markets.

Ministry of Health

- Undertakes the Food and Drugs administration, likewise laboratory test especially on condensed milk, milk powder and cooking oil, etc., whether these are fit for human consumption or not and issues the certificate of test result.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

- Undertakes the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards Control of the exports and imports.

Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries

- Issues orders and directives for the Fisheries product establishments in the areas of structural requirement, operational requirements, general product standard and packaging requirements.

Ministry of Science and Technology

- Undertakes the analysis of imported goods whether it is in line with the specification mentioned in the contract and issues the certificate of analysis.

(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 policies through their participation in coordination meetings, seminars, workshops, relating to trade policy. In the formulation of the trade-related policies the government also invites the economists and academics, the Union Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and the Ministries concerned.

(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.

Public Sector Institutions

- The Ministry of Commerce and other Ministries concerned can play a role in implementation of trade-related projects at the national level. At the State and Divisional level the Chairman of State Peace and Development Committee is the focal point.

Private and Cooperative Sector Institutions

- Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- State and Divisional Chamber of Commerce;
- Border Trade Chamber of Commerce;
- Various line - Chamber of Commerce.

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

The main laws and regulations dealing with trade policy (imports & exports)

- The control of Imports and Exports (Temporary) Act, 1947, which has been amended when necessary and which is still in force. This law is administered by the Ministry of Commerce, which, from time to time, issues necessary orders, notifications, directives, pertaining to all export/import matters including issuance of licences and permits as well;

- the State-owned Economic Enterprises Laws, which covers 12 main activities including teak, extraction and sale of petroleum, natural gas, precious stone, etc. are being reserved to be carried out by the State-owned Economic Enterprises. However, exemptions may be considered for those activities to be carried out by forming joint ventures between government and any person or enterprise if it is beneficial to the State.

The other laws and regulations dealing with trade policy (imports & exports)

- Union of Myanmar Foreign Investment Law;
- Myanmar Citizen Investment Law;
- The Central Bank of Myanmar Law;
- Financial Institution of Myanmar Law;
- Myanmar Agricultural and Rural Development Bank Law;
- Tariff Act;
- Income Tax Law and Commercial Tax Law;
- The Private Industrial Enterprises Law;
- Custom Act.

(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?).

Registration and licencing authority

- All private business enterprises, both local and foreign, cooperative societies, joint-ventures organizations, desirous of carrying out export/import business are required to apply to the Directorate of Trade for registration as an exporter/importer.
- The authority to issue export/import licences and permits is delegated to the Directorate of Trade and Department of Border Trade under the Ministry of Commerce. Directorate of Trade is authorised to issue export/import licences and permits for conventional export/import. The Department of Border Trade is also authorised to issue export/import licences for cross border trade by normal or conventional methods.

Licencing requirements

- Every export/import by private business enterprises is subject to export/import licence/permit issued by the licensing authorities concerned. The validity of export/import licence/permit issued by the Directorate of Trade is normally six months from the date of issue, and can be extended for three months period at a time. The validity of those issued by the Department of Border Trade is three months from the date of issue, and can be extended for one month at a time.

On exports

- Normally, the registered exporter/importer has the right to export all commodities, except for rice and rice products and other products which are prescribed to be solely

exportable by the State-owned Economic Enterprises. Thirty items including teak, rice, etc. are prohibited to export through the sea and the border areas.

On imports

- Priority items (a): which include agricultural machinery and farm implements, fertilizers, pesticides, high-yield quality seeds, edible oil, oil and fats for soap industry, construction stores and building materials;
- Priority items (b): about 60 items grouped under personal goods, household goods, foodstuff, construction materials, textile products, electric and electronic products and general products.

The importer is required to import 80 per cent priority items (a) and 20 per cent priority items (b). Generally, no quota or ceiling is fixed for imported items so long as the requirement to import the prescribed amount of priority items is fulfilled. Lately imports have been restricted to reduce the trade deficit.

The registered exporters/importers are allowed to enjoy 100 per cent export retention money for the export of goods. There exists no export quota nor ceiling for any exportable product or any individual or organization with the exception of textile products which are subject to a quota fixed by the importing country.

(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?

- Myanmar was the founder member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and now Myanmar is a member of the World Trade Organization.

We are in the process of improving our human and institution capacity. This includes the training of personnel in various aspects to enable us to deal with WTO matters in the future.

- To bring all of our necessary relevant laws and regulations in conformity with the WTO Agreements technical assistance is urgently needed from various International Organizations/Agencies.

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

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

Most of the government and the government-related agencies, and the private sector are not very familiar with the WTO framework.

Although a few number of civil servants, mainly from the Ministry of Commerce, are familiarized with WTO framework through attendance at regional seminars, workshops as well as WTO training courses, there is however, substantial need for further training.

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

For the effective and efficient participation in WTO as an active member, and to enable us to implement the obligations and commitments that Myanmar has to undertake under various WTO Agreements, technical assistance is needed, particularly in the areas of:

1. Expertise (training, consultant) to assist Myanmar government in adopting its trade-related legislation in conformity with WTO Agreements.
2. Training of government officials to enhance their capacity to design Myanmar Trade Policy.
3. Institution capacity building.

(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)?

Myanmar needs technical assistance in all the WTO Agreements for training its officials dealing with trade matters in the following areas:

- Multilateral trade negotiations;
- Bilateral trade negotiations;
- Competition policy;
- Agriculture;
- Textile and clothing;
- Market access;
- Customs valuation;
- Subsidies;
- TRIPS and TRIMS;
- Import Licensing;
- Services;
- Dispute settlement;
- SPS measures;
- TBT;
- Notification.

(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 in great need of sufficient knowledge and skills to apply the new rules of WTO Agreements, and weak in negotiating capacities also in the areas of competition policy and trade and environment.

B. OBSTACLES TO TRADE EXPANSION

Obstacles to trade encompassing problems in exports market, 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.)?

Land-locked 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 main bottlenecks inhibiting the development of sustained export capacity of goods and services are:

- Shipment of goods;
- poor infrastructure;
- lack of specialized education and training, research and development;
- lack of export financing;
- inadequate supply and comparatively high cost of telecommunication services;
- production of export products not matched by market demand;
- lack of up-to-date information on export markets and prices and market access problems;
- lack of laboratories for quality control;

(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) management of the institution**
- (iii) financial and material resources**
- (iv) communication**

The institutional bottlenecks that impede the efficient conduct of the country's trade policies are:

(i) Human resources

Inadequate human resources in the collection and dissemination of market information; lack of finance and skilled manpower to carry out market research missions. The efficiency of conducting trade policy is very low due to the lack of human resource development, constraints in the areas of financial and material resources and communication.

(ii) Management of the institution

Lack of proper understanding by traders regarding export/import procedures.

(iii) Financial and material resources

Financial constraints by Financial Institutions.

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

The main bottlenecks to export diversification are:

- Lack of marketing information, inadequate information regarding the nature and pattern of demand in various export markets;
- lack of export credit to diversify production and technology;
- lack of entrepreneurial drive;
- limited export supply.

(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.)

There are numbers of reasons for the inadequacy of investment in the production of goods and services such as:

- Difficulty in attracting foreign investment, primarily due to lack of adequate infrastructure facilities, shortage of skilled labour, lack of accurate data;
- inadequate bank financing facilities in both local and foreign currencies;
- lack of long-term finance, high domestic interest rate.

(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?

MIC supervises the reviewing, drafting and negotiating of contractual arrangements with foreign investors.

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

The main obstacles to the transfer, development and acquisition of technologies are:

- Shortage of basic infrastructure (telecommunications);
- lack of technology information;
- lack of investment in research and development;
- lack of practical skills;
- inability to acquire technology suitable to our economic environment;

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

Technical assistance needs with respect to supply constraints are:

- Developing a trade information network system;
- developing a data collecting system;
- developing of human resources in the area of Economic Sectors;
- computerization of customs system (ASYCUDA): funds and training to use it;
- assistance to establish a customs information unit to disseminate customs information to the private and public sector, both locally and internationally.

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 therefore 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?

- Lack of trade-related market information and communication facilities;
- lack of technological capacity and technical know-how;
- inadequacy of skilled manpower and institutional capacities;
- lack of finance;
- lack of marketing capability.

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

Problems include lack of institutional infrastructure and skills to access, collect, store, process and disseminate trade information from abroad by using modern information technology (internet).

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

Most of the enterprises cannot offer products of internationally acceptable design, quality and packaging to foreign buyers; the main reason is lack of technology and lack of market information.

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

Other than trade policy, the main problems in developing export of services like computer software and tourism arise from lack of technology and skills, lack of infrastructure, finance and trained manpower.

(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?

Myanmar has yet to establish a Trade Promotion Council and Exporters' Association. Various Chambers of Commerce have been established but they lack staff with professional competency and entrepreneurial ability needed for the progress of business.

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

- Lack of foreign exchange;
- limited access to the world market;
- lack of trade information in respect of availability, price, quality of goods.

(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?

At present there are no arrangements for trade finance facilities except local financing by borrowing from the bank.

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

There are some training programmes on export/import management for business enterprises, however, it still needs further promotion to improve the skill of exporters/importers due to the lack of experiences in foreign trade for three decades.

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

Myanmar does not still have trade representation service abroad.

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

- Assistance to improve operation of the existing mechanism (including funding) to provide export credit facilities to SMEs;
- establishment of a Trade Promotion Organization, Establishment of a trade point;
- building up the research capability and establishing linkage among them;
- establish trade information centre, disseminating information about local and foreign market opportunities to Myanmar business;
- measures to reduce transportation cost and market promotion;
- human resources training in quality control, packaging, design.

Market access

(r) What are your main market access problems?

The main market access problems are the following:

- Limited capacity to produce for export;
- lack of exports diversification into high value-added, processed and manufactured products;
- stringent quality and standard requirements;
- inadequate foreign market information.

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

- Economic sanction by USA and EU;
- SPS measures taken by Japan against agricultural exports from the Least Developed Countries.

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

- AFTA (ASEAN free-trade area);
- BIMST - EC

Assessment cannot be made on both agreements so far since Myanmar just newly acceded to it.

(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.

- Removal of preferential access to the US market and EU market under the GSP scheme for Myanmar since 1994 and 1996 respectively;
- Accession cannot be made on GSTP so far since Myanmar just newly acceded to it.

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

With respect to market access Myanmar needs training in the areas of:

- Rules of origin;
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS);
- how to better use the GSP scheme.

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 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?

The Private Sector development/Project was implemented by the Ministry of Commerce with the assistance of the UNDP from August 1989 to March 1992. The development objective of the project is to facilitate and accelerate the development of the private sector, as Myanmar is transforming to a market-oriented system from the centrally planned economic system and has recognized the important role of the private sector in striving for economic growth and social development.

Project implementation has completed satisfactorily in 1992, with the successful implementation of seven in-country seminars out of eight and three overseas study tours in full. However, they have stopped the development of the Private Sector phase II.

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

- Institutional strengthening and human resource development in relevant Ministries and government agencies, particularly the Ministry of Commerce and its affiliated agencies, to effectively handle work relating to compliance with various WTO Agreements. More specifically, this will involve beefing up national capacity for meeting product standards and technical regulations requirements in major export markets of Myanmar establishing the administrative mechanisms required. Changing existing national legislations and bring them into conformity with all WTO related Agreements, strengthen selected service sub-sectors (e.g. telecommunications, financial services, etc.) stepping up research efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, etc.
- Developing a modern trade information network including establishment of a Trade Point.
- Training for government officials dealing with trade matters in particular in the area of WTO related Agreements trade analysis and trade negotiating capabilities including the abilities to design industrial policy geared towards exports.
- Provide export credit facilities to small and medium size enterprises.
- Building up institutional capability in formulation and implementation of trade policy matters.
- Assessing the current situation in the areas of agricultural, agro-industrial and manufacturing production for foreign markets with a view for formulating an

integrated national policy for the development and promotion of exports, particularly non-traditional exports.

- Acquisition of equipment by Government Ministries so as to access information on market opportunities and technological development.

(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?

The information given is not exhaustive. Therefore, it will be helpful if technical assistance is provided for this purpose.

(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?

No. Technical assistance is needed in the areas of:

- Intensive training in the use of information technology.
- Funding for information technology equipment for the Ministry of Commerce.

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

MYANMAR²

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In reply to question A(k) : <u>Technical assistance requirements as regards compliance with WTO Agreements</u>		
1. Expertise (training, consultant) to assist the Myanmar Government in adapting its trade-related legislation in conformity with WTO Agreements	WTO	On request WTO will provide technical assistance, as appropriate, relating to implementation of WTO Agreements, including notification requirements.
2. Training of Government officials to enhance their capacity to design Myanmar Trade Policy	IMF	The IMF Institute continues to provide training in financial programming and a range of other macroeconomic policy issues. Trade policy is often included.
	WTO	A national seminar will be held in 1999. A three-week Trade Policy seminar for Asian and Pacific Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will be organized in 1999 (as in 1998). Specialized regional seminars and/or workshops on WTO provisions will be organized in 1999 for English speaking LDCs (as in 1998).
3. Institution capacity building.		
In reply to question A(l) : <u>Technical assistance needs as regards specific WTO Agreements</u>		

²IMF staff consider that the Myanmar economy faces serious macroeconomic and structural problems. Moreover, the macroeconomic situation has continued to deteriorate markedly in the last year. The most recent Article IV consultation report and the Executive Board discussion (June 1998) emphasized the importance of implementing a comprehensive adjustment program to address the widening macroeconomic imbalances and deep-seated structural distortions -- the Fund's view is that anything short of a comprehensive approach will not succeed. The Fund therefore emphasizes the importance of having in place an appropriate policy environment for usefully absorbing trade-related technical assistance.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Myanmar needs technical assistance in all the WTO Agreements for training its officials dealing with trade matters in the following areas:	ITC	ITC will help assess these needs and suggest activities in terms of business implications of the Agreements when requested by the Government.
	WTO	See A(k).
- Multilateral trade negotiations	WTO	See above.
- Bilateral trade negotiations	WTO	See above.
- Competition policy	WTO	See above.
- Agriculture	ITC	See above regarding business implications.
	WTO	See above.
- Textiles and clothing	ITC	See above regarding business implications
	WTO	See above.
- Market access	WTO	See above.
- Customs valuation	IMF	The Fund is available, in appropriate circumstances, to provide technical assistance in the following areas: reviewing customs legislation and regulations, to align them to WTO requirements; strengthening customs valuation and adapting the valuation system to WTO requirements; advising on customs computerization issues and on strengthening of the organizational structure.
	WTO	See above.
- Subsidies	WTO	See above.
- TRIPS	ITC	See above.
	WTO	See above.
- TRIMS	ITC	See above.
	WTO	See above.
- Import Licensing	WTO	See above.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question A(I) continued:		
- Services	WTO	See above.
- Dispute settlement	WTO	See above.
- SPS measures	WTO	See above.
- TBT	WTO	See above.
- Notifications	WTO	See above.
In reply to question A(m): <u>Assessment of the existing trade analysis and negotiation capacities</u>		
Great need of sufficient knowledge and skills to apply the new rules of WTO Agreements; negotiating capacities are also weak in the areas of competition policy and trade and environment.	WTO	See A(k).
In reply to question B(g): <u>Technical assistance needs as regards supply constraints</u>		
1. Developing a trade information network system.	ITC	See A(l). In addition, Myanmar may benefit from various sources of trade information and tools available at ITC upon request.
2. Developing a data collecting system.	ITC	See above.
3. Developing human resources in the area of economic sectors		
4. Computerization of customs system (ASYCUDA): funds and training to use it.	IMF/ UNCTAD	A joint IMF-UNCTAD feasibility study was undertaken in the early 1990s, which recommended the implementation of ASYCUDA as a tool for the reorganization of customs. No progress has been made since, as no donor could be identified.
5. Assistance to establish a customs information unit to disseminate customs information to the private and public sector, both locally and internationally	IMF	See A(I).

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
In reply to question B(q): <u>Technical assistance needs in the area of trade promotion and support services</u>		
1. Assistance to improve operation of the existing mechanism (including funding) to provide export credit facilities to SMEs.		
2(i) Establishment of a Trade Promotion Organization.	ITC	See A(l).
(ii) Establishment of a Trade Point		
	UNCTAD	A request has already been made to UNCTAD for the establishment of a Trade Point. The initial step will be a feasibility study*.
3. Building up research capabilities and establishing linkages among them.	ITC	See A(l).
4. Establishment of a trade information centre, disseminating information about local and foreign market opportunities to Myanmar businesses	ITC	See B(g)1.
5. Measures to reduce transportation costs and market promotion.		
6. Human resources training in quality control, packaging and design	ITC	See A(l). In addition, Myanmar may also benefit from the information on quality control packaging available at ITC upon request.
In reply to question B(v): <u>Technical assistance as regards market access</u>		
Myanmar needs training in the areas of:		
1. Rules of origin.	WTO	See A(k)
2. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards (SPS).	ITC	See A(l).
	WTO	See A(l).
3. How to better use the GSP scheme.	UNCTAD	Advisory services and training can be provided under the GSP programme*.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In reply to question C(b):</p> <p><u>Summary of technical assistance needs according to priority</u></p>		
<p>1. Institutional strengthening and human resource development in relevant Ministries and Government agencies, particularly Ministry of Commerce and its affiliated agencies, to effectively handle work relating to compliance with various WTO Agreements. More specifically, this will involve;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - beefing up national capacity for meeting product standards and technical regulations requirements in major export markets of Myanmar ; establishing the administrative mechanisms required - changing existing national legislation and bringing them in conformity with all WTO related Agreements; 	<p>ITC</p> <p>WTO</p> <p>IMF WTO</p>	<p>See A(l).</p> <p>See A(l).</p> <p>See A(l). See A(k).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthening selected service sub-sectors (e.g. telecommunications, financial services, etc.); - stepping up research efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, etc.). 		
<p>2. Developing a modern trade information network including establishment of a Trade Point.</p>	<p>ITC</p> <p>UNCTAD</p>	<p>See B(g) 1.</p> <p>See B(q) 2(ii).</p>
<p>3. Training for government officials dealing with trade matters in particular in the area of WTO related Agreements' trade analysis and trade negotiating capabilities, including the abilities to design industrial policy geared towards exports.</p>	<p>WTO</p>	<p>See A(k).</p>
<p>4. Provide export credit facilities to small and medium size enterprises.</p>		
<p>Question C(b) continued:</p> <p>5. Building up institutional capability in formulation and implementation of trade policy matters.</p>	<p>IMF</p>	<p>See A(k).</p>

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
6. Assessing the current situation in the areas of agricultural, agro-industrial and manufacturing production for foreign markets with a view to formulating an integrated national policy for the development and promotion of exports, particularly non-traditional exports	ITC World Bank	See A(l). An assessment of the present situation is included in the World Bank study "Evaluating the Implications of Myanmar's Accession to the ASEAN Free-Trade Area."
7. Acquisition of equipment by Government Ministries so as to access information on market opportunities and technological development.		
In reply to question C(c): <u>Additional information</u>		
The information given is not exhaustive. Therefore, it will be helpful if technical assistance is provided to identify information which is missing or that could be improved upon.		
In reply to question C(d): <u>Technical assistance needs in the area of information technology including training of human resources</u>		
Intensive training in the use of information technology	ITC	See A(l).
	WTO	WTO Reference Centre (including computer equipment and access to Internet) has been established in Myanmar in July 1998 and intensive training has been provided to the users.
Funding for information technology equipment for the Ministry of Commerce	WTO	See above.