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REPORT ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING 1998

Note by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

The number of WTO technical cooperation and training activities carried out in 1998 (299) underwent again an unprecedented increase over 1997 (31 per cent). These activities took place in 125 countries and covered most WTO Members, countries and territories in accession, countries that have expressed an interest in joining the WTO and nearly all least-developed countries whether Member of the WTO or not. The increase in number of activities compared to previous years has largely been made possible through extra-budgetary contributions through individual Trust Funds, but with minimal increases in staff. In addition to funds that were already provided in 1996 and 1997, new contributions were received in 1998 thus facilitating the broadening and deepening of technical assistance provided. At present, extra-budgetary contributions constitute over eighty percent of total funding of all technical cooperation activities. Some of the extra-budgetary funds provided by donors have been exhausted or are near completion, and without having clear indications as to their renewal, this obviously raises the question of sustainability of the level of activity reached in terms of financial support.

Since the establishment of the WTO, the Secretariat has prepared various documents pertaining to designing, planning, monitoring and evaluating technical cooperation activities. These include:

- (a) The guidelines for technical cooperation, adopted in October 1996;
- (b) The implementation modalities, adopted in November 1997;
- (c) The WTO Programme for Technical Cooperation (WT/COMTD/W/32/Rev.1 and WT/COMTD/W/48), generally referred to as the three-year plan;
- (d) The Manual on Technical Cooperation and Training, published in 1998.

Moreover, in 1998 discussions at the Committee on Trade and Development particularly focussed on modalities for evaluating technical cooperation in the WTO. The Secretariat made various proposals to conduct such evaluation, which eventually met the approval of the Committee (2 March 1999). As of July 1999, the Secretariat will start using questionnaires with the specific purpose of evaluating technical cooperation and will produce a first evaluation report on this basis in early Spring of the year 2000.

The present report contains a limited assessment of the WTO's technical cooperation activities. In general, it can be said that while respecting the demand-driven approach, a geographical balance is maintained in the delivery of assistance and priority given to least-developed countries and to low-income economies. WTO's technical assistance has covered a very broad and diverse range of countries, including Members and non-Members and a very broad range of trade-related topics, which have been addressed in a general and/or specific way, depending on the requirements of the beneficiary countries.

In this report on technical cooperation (1998), Chapter II provides a broad overview of all technical cooperation activities, their characteristics and regional distribution; Chapter III focuses on the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries; Chapter IV elaborates further on regional/national activities and programmes, including their funding; and Chapter V covers the Trade Policy Courses, and Chapter VI addresses the issue of Assessment of Technical Cooperation.

I. OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES¹

The WTO Programme for Technical Cooperation (WT/COMTD/W/48), generally referred to as the three-year plan, contains a list of activities to be carried out in the period 1999-2001. The previous version (WT/COMTD/W/32/Rev.1) was submitted to the Committee in Autumn 1997 and included activities for 1998. It provides the basis for TC activities. Last year, nearly eighty per cent of all activities contained in the three-year plan were executed in 1998, the remaining twenty per cent of activities were carried over to 1999. At the same time, they represented only one third of all technical cooperation activities carried out by the WTO.

The vast majority of all activities conducted, i.e. two-thirds of all activities, were not included in the plan. This could be explained by the fact that this was the first year of operation of the three-year plan and many requests for assistance were made and carried out on short notice in 1998. The contribution of the three-year plan to enhancing the efficiency in delivering technical assistance is expected to further improve in future.

During the year 1998, a total of 308 technical cooperation activities have been organized, which involved most Divisions in the WTO. This compares with 227 activities in 1997, amounting to an increase of some 36 per cent. These activities were held in 126 Members, 98 of which were WTO Members, 19 in the process accession, while the remaining 9 countries were either observer or had expressed interest in joining the WTO. Out of the 126 Members where technical assistance activities were held, the large majority were developing countries, 34 were least-developed.²

The average duration of an activity is 3.5 days, bringing the total number of days associated with WTO's technical cooperation activities to 1,070 days in 1998, up from 222 in 1994. This increase of nearly five hundred percent represents a major activity for the WTO staff involved in the delivery of technical assistance.

Of all activities carried out, almost half (46.8 per cent) were fully organized by the WTO, less than twenty per cent (19.4%) of all activities were jointly organized between the WTO and other organizations and in one third of all activities, the WTO was invited to participate in activities held by other bodies/organizations. This report covers all activities where the WTO had a direct or indirect involvement.

Table I gives a regional breakdown of activities and shows that major efforts were directed towards assisting African countries, which benefitted from almost one third of all activities (93) in 1998 (an increase of more than 40 per cent over 1997). Activities in other regions also increased with 62 held in Asia and the Pacific, 57 held in Europe, 70 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 26 in the Middle East.

¹Full details on all technical cooperation activities are provided in the Annex.

²The WTO currently counts 29 Members that are recognized as least-developed countries. A total of 48 countries are recognised as least-developed following the UN definition.

Table I
Technical Cooperation Activities by Region

Region	1995	1996	1997	1998	Total
Africa	20	43	66	93	222
Asia/Pacific	20	28	53	62	163
Europe	17	16	32	57	122
North ³ /Latin America and the Caribbean	16	26	58	70	170
Middle East	6	11	18	26	61
Total	79	124	227	308	738

Growth Rates

Region	Periods	1996/95	1997/96	1998/97
Africa		115%	53%	41%
Asia/Pacific		40%	89%	17%
Europe		-6%	100%	78%
North ³ /Latin America and the Caribbean		62%	123%	21%
Middle East		83%	64%	44%
Total		57%	83.%	36%
Total activities:				308
Activities having a reference code in the 3-year Plan				112
Activities not having a reference code in the 3-year plan				196
Activities fully organized by WTO				140
Activities organized by WTO and other institutions				58
Activities where WTO was invited				110
Activities in the 3-year Plan but not executed				58

With respect to the modes of delivery or types of activity covered by the WTO, Table II shows that the majority of activities in 1998 consisted of participation in or contribution to technical cooperation workshops and conferences (106), technical missions (90), regional seminars (71) and national seminars (41). Compared to 1997, the number of workshops and conferences in which the Secretariat participated increased moderately. These result from the need to assess the implications of the Agreements on a national level in a broader and sometimes more specific way. As seen in Part IV of the Annex, the topics of the workshops, conferences, round tables, training courses are wide-ranging and generally deal in-depth with specific issues. The workshops in particular can be characterized by a 'hands-on' approach, with officials being trained and/or familiarised with the intricacies of a specific agreement. Also, the expertise of the WTO Secretariat in specific fields has increasingly been solicited in activities organized by other bodies. The number of technical missions increased from 55 in 1997 to 90 in 1998, partly reflecting an increased demand for specific assistance, as a result of the establishment of WTO Reference Centres in least-developed and Developing Countries. Details on this programme are provided below.

³ Refers to activities for developing countries held in North America.

Since many of the technical cooperation activities took place at the sub-regional or regional level, WTO activities registered as having taken place in one particular country in fact covered participants from a number of countries e.g. APEC, ASEAN, CARICOM, ALADI, SADC, thus broadening the number of beneficiary countries of such assistance. Several countries benefited from more than one activity.

Table II
Technical Cooperation Activities by Mode of Supply⁴

Type of Activity	Area Year	Africa	Asia/ Pacific	Europe	Latin/ North America and Caribbean	Middle East	Total
National Seminars	1995	7	7	8	7	4	33
	1996	13	4	1	10	1	29
	1997	13	7	4	16	4	44
	1998	7	10	7	13	4	41
Total		40	28	20	46	13	147
Regional Seminars	1995	3	8	1	6	0	18
	1996	7	7	2	8	2	26
	1997	14	13	4	16	3	50
	1998	17	19	5	22	8	71
Total		41	47	12	52	13	165
Technical Missions	1995	10	3	0	2	1	16
	1996	9	5	1	1	3	19
	1997	21	12	8	9	5	55
	1998	44	20	8	12	6	90
Total		84	40	17	24	15	180
Workshops, Conferences, Symposia, Training Courses	1995	0	2	8	1	1	12
	1996	14	12	12	7	5	50
	1997	18	21	16	17	6	78
	1998	25	13	37	23	8	106
Total		57	48	73	48	20	246
All Activities	1995	20	20	17	16	6	79
	1996	43	28	16	26	11	124
	1997	66	53	32	58	18	227
	1998	93	62	57	70	26	308
Total		222	163	222	170	61	738

Technical cooperation activities in Africa were mainly delivered in the form of technical missions (44), workshops and conferences (25), regional seminars (17) and national seminars (7). The increase in the number of technical missions (from 21 in 1997) can be explained by the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Africa (cf Chapter IV), which became operational in the summer of 1998 and during which technical expertise was provided in specific areas for purposes of institutional and human capacity building. The increase is also explained by the programme of

⁴In some cases, several technical cooperation activities were jointly organized during one mission. The total number of activities therefore does not necessarily correspond to the number of missions carried out in each region.

establishing WTO Reference Centres in least-developed Countries, the majority of which are in Africa.

In Asia and the Pacific the total number of activities increased to 62 from 53 in 1997; with most of the technical cooperation delivered through regional seminars (19) and technical missions (20). WTO's participation in workshops and conferences decreased from 21 to 13. Also, a total of ten national seminars were held. In North/Latin America and the Caribbean, a total of 70 activities were carried out, up from 58, mostly consisting of workshops and conferences (23), regional seminars (22), technical missions (12) and national seminars (13). Of the 26 activities held in the Middle East, most consisted of workshops and conferences (8), regional seminars (8) and technical missions (6). In Europe, technical cooperation activities were organized in the form of workshops, conferences, symposia, training courses (37), most of which actually took place at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.

It would thus appear that while the mode of delivery can vary among regions, each region continued to be covered by a variety of activities.

II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION: SUBJECTS COVERED

A. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WTO REFERENCE CENTRES

The World Trade Organization and the World Bank have initiated a project that uses information technologies to better enable decision-makers in developing countries to understand and to make use of the rules and mechanisms of the WTO for the benefit of their countries. The project will enable developing country decision-makers to:

- have permanent on-line access to electronic training, education and information tools conceived specifically for them;
- maintain an on-going, electronic contact with the WTO so they can keep abreast of new developments (e.g., telecommunications agreement) and be informed specifically on their importance for their country or region.

Detailed information on the Information Technologies Project is provided in the Annex to this document.

The WTO Reference Centres' programme originally started as a component of the WTO-UNCTAD-ITC Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP)⁵ to provide enhanced technical assistance to the countries visited by the Director-General of the WTO and the Executive Director of the ITC in January 1996. Later in April 1996, the JITAP was jointly launched at Midrand (South Africa) by the WTO, UNCTAD and ITC, and covered eight countries. Following the conclusion of the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries' trade development in October 1997, WTO Reference Centres have expanded to cover forty-two countries as at end December 1998.

The emphasis on least-developed Countries in the programme implies that Africa, the continent which of all counts for the largest number of LDCs, is the major beneficiary of WTO Reference Centres. All African least-developed country Members and observers, with the exception of Sierra Leone (because of political instability), have been covered by the WTO Reference Centre

⁵ The JITAP programme was developed by ITC, UNCTAD and WTO to help selected least developed and other countries in Africa participate more effectively in the evolving multilateral trading system and to benefit therefrom.

programme. The regional distribution consists of thirty-one WTO Reference Centres in Africa, seven in Asia, two in the Pacific and one each in the Middle East and the Americas.

In recognition of the difficulties faced by Small Island Developing WTO Members, attention is increasingly focused on these countries during 1999. The establishment of WTO Reference Centres and training to be provided to officials of Small Island Developing Countries on accessing the wealth of information on the WTO Web site, together with WTO's expanded technical cooperation activities aim at helping increase exports of these countries and diversify their sources of imports. Twenty-two Small Island Developing Countries are scheduled to be covered by the programme in 1999.

B. NOTIFICATIONS

In the Singapore Ministerial Declaration, Ministers noted, *inter alia*, that compliance with notification requirements had not been fully satisfactory. This was explained by difficulties many developing country Members were encountering with the expanded notification obligations contained in the WTO Agreements. Because the WTO system relies on reverse monitoring as a means to improve transparency and assess implementation, Members which had not submitted notifications in a timely manner, or whose notifications were not complete, were invited to do so.

In order to raise awareness on Members' notification obligations, the Secretariat almost systematically includes a module on notification requirements in national as well as in regional seminars. Upon request, the Secretariat organized technical missions to assist Members in complying with their notification obligations. In addition, this area was regularly covered in the assistance provided to Geneva-based delegations.

C. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

In accordance with Article 27.3 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the Technical Cooperation Division, jointly with the Legal Affairs Division, organized the Eleventh and Twelfth Special Training Courses on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Practices. These courses were held from 10 - 13 February 1998 and from 6 - 9 October 1998, respectively. The objective of these courses was to enhance the understanding of officials from developed and developing country Members as well as acceding countries of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, so as to enable them to advise their governments effectively on all matters relating to the implementation and application of the WTO Agreement. The programme for both courses included a general presentation on the GATT/WTO system, followed by detailed presentations on the dispute settlement procedures and practices. The courses also contained an important practical component requiring active involvement and interaction from the participants, through case studies and simulated panel exercises. A total of 75 participants took part in these courses. In view of the high demand of these courses, the Secretariat has increased the number held in Geneva from two to three.

As was foreseen in last year's report, the Secretariat with the financial assistance of donor governments, held a number of regional and sub-regional workshops on dispute settlement procedures and practices for government officials from developing countries. Four such courses were held last year; the first for Asian Developing Countries was held on 16 -20 February 1998 in Bali, Indonesia; the second for African English-speaking countries on 9 -12 June 1998 in Windhoek, Namibia, the third for Latin American countries on 29 June - 2 July 1998 in Caracas, Venezuela, and the fourth was held for Caribbean countries on 9-12 December 1999 in Barbados. It is intended to hold similar courses this year for Pacific-island countries, Middle-Eastern Countries, Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and Mediterranean countries and French-speaking African countries.

During 1998, developing countries were actively involved in the dispute settlement process, both as complainants and as respondents. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 27.2 of the DSU, several developing countries sought the assistance of the Secretariat in a variety of legal matters and

situations. Assistance which was provided included advising countries on their legal rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement; assessing a Member's initiating action under any of the covered agreements, undertaking legal research and providing comments on submissions prepared by a Members' lawyers.

D. CUSTOMS VALUATION

In view of the upcoming expiry of transition periods for the implementation of certain aspects of the Agreement on Customs Valuation, the WTO and its Members seek to assist countries in their adjustment efforts through technical cooperation.

The WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation provides several special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries in Article 20 and Annex III of the Agreement. In particular, Article 20.1 of the Agreement envisages the possibility for a developing country Member to delay implementing the Agreement for a period not exceeding five years. This period of time is to be used by the Member to make the transition to the Customs Valuation Agreement. In addition, Article 20.3 provides that "developed country Members furnish, on mutually agreed terms, technical assistance to developing country Members that so request. On this basis, developed country Members shall draw up programmes of technical assistance which may include, *inter alia*, training of personnel, assistance in preparing implementation measures, access to sources of information regarding customs valuation methodology, and advice on the application of the provisions of the Agreement". Some fifty-three developing country Members have invoked the delay period which will expire within the following one to two years. For this reason, the Committee agreed to engage more actively in the area of technical assistance.

It was agreed that technical assistance should be tailored to the specific needs of the Member concerned. Identification of those needs was assisted by a questionnaire, the responses to which have helped in the establishment by the Secretariat of a Programme of Technical Assistance, which began in August 1998 and which has already benefitted several Members. In addition, some developed country Members informed the Committee of the technical assistance activities they had conducted or were conducting. Some delegations pointed out the benefit of developing a framework for trade facilitation that would ensure coherent cooperation between relevant international organizations in the field of technical assistance and capacity building. In this connection, the Committee agreed that the responses to the questionnaire (G/VAL/W/24/Rev.1) should be forwarded by a senior WTO official to other international organizations in order to draw their attention to the needs identified in developing country Members with respect to this Agreement and its implementation. Such a letter, it was felt, would serve to better coordinate the efforts of all the organizations and to avoid duplication in any of the technical assistance provided.

E. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The general technical cooperation and training activities of the WTO Secretariat described in this note usually cover intellectual property. In addition, the Secretariat has provided assistance specifically in relation to the TRIPS Agreement. Much of this has been provided through international, regional and national seminars devoted in whole or in large part to the TRIPS Agreement or to a specific aspect of the Agreement. Cooperation with WIPO has been a key feature in this area, based on the Cooperation Agreement between the two Organizations. For example, in 1988 the Secretariat participated in 12 seminars organized by WIPO outside Geneva and in many WIPO training activities in Geneva. Similarly, WIPO provided speakers to two seminars organized by the WTO outside Geneva, and contributed to the WTO training activities in Geneva. The WTO Secretariat and WIPO organized a Joint Symposium on "The Process of Implementation of the TRIPS Agreement" in Geneva in September 1998. In addition, the Secretariat cooperated with a number of other intergovernmental organizations, including the European Patent Office, UNCTAD and the World Bank.

In July 1998, WIPO and the WTO launched a Joint Initiative on Technical Cooperation to assist developing countries to meet their commitments under the TRIPS Agreement by the year 2000, which builds on the existing cooperation between the two Organizations and their existing programmes in this connection. Under the Joint Initiative, the two Organizations have committed themselves to use available resources to provide, on request, assistance to enable developing country Members of the WTO to comply with obligations under the TRIPS Agreement within the applicable time limits. By the end of 1998, some 30 developing country Members had expressed interest in taking advantage of the Joint Initiative. The Secretariat and the International Bureau of WIPO have examined the specific requests that have been received in detail and agreed upon appropriate follow-up action. In most cases, the International Bureau of WIPO has taken the lead by integrating these requests into its programmes of assistance to each of the countries for 1999, and the WTO Secretariat is contributing to these activities of WIPO to the extent that its limited human resources permit. In a number of other instances, assistance is provided through joint events, and in the remaining instances, the WTO Secretariat has taken the lead.

As part of the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries' Trade Development, the WTO Secretariat organized, in cooperation with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, a seminar on the TRIPS Agreement for officials from least-developed and certain other developing countries from the Asia/Pacific region in Sydney, Australia in April. Officials from least-developed countries have also participated in many of the activities referred to above.

In addition, it should be recalled that a large part of the work of Secretariat officials dealing with intellectual property matters has been concerned with providing information in response to questions put to them by representatives of Member governments in Geneva and capitals. Such advice and information has also been given to officials from acceding countries.⁶

F. BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BRIEFING SESSIONS

An annual briefing session for newly arrived delegates of Members and Observers is organized regularly in the Autumn of each year.

Briefing sessions for Geneva-based delegations and visiting officials of least developed countries, developing countries, economies in transition and countries in the process of accession are organized on a regular basis. These briefings are provided either to individual delegations and officials or in the form of briefing sessions for several delegations. They constitute a very important aspect of technical assistance and address specific concerns of individual or groups of countries.

On an ongoing basis the Secretariat provides bilateral technical assistance to Members. This mainly consists of assisting Members and acceding countries by providing information and guidance upon their request on any area covered by WTO Agreements. Such assistance can be provided in meetings between WTO staff members and delegations, through e-mail, in writing or by telephone/fax communication.

⁶ For further information, please see a note by the Secretariat entitled "WTO Secretariat Technical Cooperation in the TRIPS Area", dated 7 September 1998 and circulated in document IP/C/W/110.

G. ACCESSION

During 1998 the Secretariat continued to provide technical assistance to countries in the process of accession to the WTO, and to respond to requests for assistance from other countries contemplating accession. Technical missions were organized to assist these countries. The missions focused on advising and explaining the benefits of the multilateral trading system as well as practical and technical issues relating to accession. These countries are also very much associated with WTO activities in Geneva, or regionally, and with officials being invited to attend the seminars, workshops etc.

The increased complexity of the ongoing accession negotiations also requires that acceding governments provide technical data and information covering sectors like TRIPS, Agriculture, State Trading, and Services, as well as notifications on Customs Valuation, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Both during missions and from Geneva, the Secretariat assists in the compilation and tabling of the needed information in agreed formats such as the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime, and replies to questions from WTO Members.

Countries visited in 1998 included Vanuatu, Croatia, Laos, Oman, Seychelles, Andorra, which are all at different stages of accession.

H. TRADE POLICY REVIEW (TPR)

Technical assistance was provided to several developing countries in the preparation of their trade policy reviews. While the reviews of developing and least-developed countries are less frequent than for developed countries, it represents a major exercise; the number of requests has thus gradually increased. The Secretariat provides assistance in this area to all requesting developing countries, in particular African and least-developed countries.

I. PROVISION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Secretariat has continued to prepare studies on individual products of interest to developing and least-developed countries. Upon request, data on trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures have often been made available. One case in point is the study on trade and tariffs for leather products, which was prepared for the leather fair organized by the ITC in South Africa. Information was also provided on the assessment of other countries' schedules on market access in goods of relevance to developing countries' export interests as well as data designed to help them assess the impact on their services trade of specific commitments on services made by developed countries.

In addition, comprehensive studies on the implications of the WTO Agreements for requesting individual countries or groups of countries, as well as background notes on specific issues in different areas of the negotiations, were prepared.

J. THE WTO - A TRAINING PACKAGE

A computer-based package on the World Trade Organization has been prepared by the Secretariat and is now accessible on the WTO web-site (www.wto.org). It mirrors the structure of a general seminar and covers all concepts developed in a normal 4 to 5 day seminar run by TCD. It consists of ten modules. Each of the first nine modules corresponds to a three-four hour seminar lecture, and includes a review section using the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) approach. The last module - module 10 - contains the Final Act as well as other key WTO documents.

This package can be seen as two inter-related components: (i) a set of over 350 "slides"; (ii) a "book" that contains a short explanation for each bullet point appearing on the slides. The slides are

available in English and French on-line, while the Spanish version should soon be finalized. The "book" is for the moment only available in English and its translation into French and Spanish is under way. Once all the material is available in the three working languages, a CD-ROM will be pressed and distributed. The same material contained in the CD-ROM could be made available in printed form as well, i.e. a "book" and a set of slides.

III. HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON INTEGRATED INITIATIVES FOR LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' TRADE DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK FOR TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In pursuit of the Comprehensive and Integrated WTO Plan of Action for Least-Developed Countries, a High Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries' Trade Development was held at the WTO on 27 and 28 October 1997 and, in addition to the WTO, organized by the International Trade Center, UNCTAD and UNDP in close collaboration with the IMF and the World Bank. The High Level Meeting endorsed the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries (WT/LDC/HL/1/Rev.1). The framework aims at making such assistance in least-developed countries more effective and efficient by laying down a mechanism for closer coordination of trade-related technical assistance activities. The mechanism applies to the trade-related assistance activities of the IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank and WTO in all 48 least-developed countries as such designated by the UN. It is based on least-developed countries' (LDCs') requests for such assistance and on their full ownership of the process. To this end, the Integrated Framework envisages as a first step that the least-developed countries make an assessment of their needs for trade-related technical assistance. Taking this assessment as a basis, the six agencies then formulate a coordinated response of trade-related technical assistance activities which each organization individually, but in coordination with the other five, is in a position to provide in line with its own expertise, comparative advantage and available resources. So far 40 least-developed countries expressed an interest in the exercise by submitting their Needs Assessments to which the six agencies have drawn up their "Integrated Responses" of assistance activities. These are published, after consultations with the country concerned, in the document series WT/COMTD/IF---.

In 1998, the WTO, jointly with the other five core agencies, finalised its review and provided its contribution to the Integrated Responses to 27 such Needs Assessments, which were published in documents WT/COMTD/IF/13 through 39. The WTO also provided assistance to a number of least-developed countries in drawing up their Needs Assessment. These typically cover areas ranging from compliance with the WTO rules and obligations to supply side constraints, such as infrastructure, issues of human and institutional capacity building, needs of the private sector, etc..

The next stage is to broaden the exercise so that least-developed countries can seek support that goes beyond what the six agencies can make available to meet their needs for trade-related technical assistance. It involves each least-developed country, along with its multilateral, regional and bilateral development partners, reviewing its assessment and preparing a concrete programme - a portfolio of projects - of technical assistance to meet those needs. To this end, the LDC will call a "roundtable" to which it will invite the development partners of its choice and which will provide the opportunity to endorse such a multi-year programme. The "roundtables" provide the occasion for the development partners to announce interest in financing and/or providing technical assistance and expertise to support elements of the programme. These round tables are therefore a vital step in achieving the objectives of the Integrated Framework and in getting multi-year programmes of technical assistance endorsed. While the ownership and initiative of organizing these meetings lie with the least-developed countries themselves, the assistance of a local advisor and/or the six agencies involved may be requested, having due regard to the objective of capacity building within the administration of the country concerned. Given their presence in the field and their vast experience in organizing donor meetings, the World Bank and UNDP are considered best placed to assist the countries in organizing such meetings, although the other agencies have also extended assistance.

In 1998, the WTO joined UNDP in a preparatory mission to Haiti to assist the government in its preparation for its trade-related roundtable meeting. Moreover, in 1998 WTO has been giving technical advice on the organization of trade-related roundtables and any other aspect of the Integrated Framework process as part of its on-going technical assistance activities to least-developed countries, both in Geneva and in the countries concerned. In 1998, one country, Uganda, held a donor meeting under the Integrated Framework, *en marge* of its Consultative Group Meeting in December 1998, in Kampala, in which WTO participated. It was the first of its kind. In light of the comments made at the meeting by the donor community, the Government of Uganda will fine-tune its proposals for trade-related technical assistance, while at the same time strengthening the involvement of the private sector in the exercise. This should lead to the government preparing a prioritised list of proposals for consideration by the donor community, which would be discussed at a second meeting at a later stage, with the objective of endorsing a multi-year programme of trade-related technical assistance. In 1998, a total of twenty-one LDCs expressed an interest in organizing such "roundtables" and a number of them are in various stages of preparation, with the assistance of one or more of the agencies.

In November 1998, the government of Mali benefitted from its presence in Geneva for its Trade Policy Review to have informal consultations with some of its development partners in the context of the Integrated Framework. The consultations served as an additional opportunity for the government of Mali to draw attention of its development partners to the Integrated Framework in particular in the light of its planned trade-related round table in 1999. It is expected that this example will be followed by other least-developed countries in the future.

While the trade-related "roundtables" are a necessary step in endorsing multi-year programmes of trade-related technical assistance, agencies have been carrying out technical assistance activities under the Integrated Framework pending and prior to such meetings. For instance WTO, in 1998, has implemented the following technical assistance activities under the Integrated Framework:

A. NATIONAL SEMINARS

Eleven national seminars were undertaken in 1998 (Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, Cambodia, Laos, Haiti, Myanmar, Sudan, Mauritania)

B. REGIONAL SEMINARS

One regional seminar for English-speaking African least-developed countries took place in mid-June (in Zambia) with the participation of ITC. Two other regional seminars specifically for least-developed countries were undertaken in Djibouti (French-speaking least-developed countries) and in Bangladesh (Asian and Pacific least-developed countries).

The WTO organized fifteen regional seminars in 1998 in which least-developed countries' officials and representatives from the private sector and from academic institutions participated. Two of these regional seminars on the multilateral trading system were undertaken jointly with the World Bank (in Botswana and in Cameroon). Twelve regional seminars focussed on specific subjects, in particular on dispute settlement, TBTs, market access, services, trade and environment and TRIPS.

C. SHORT TERM TRADE POLICY COURSES

The first short term trade policy course for English-speaking least-developed countries was held in May 1998 while the second short term trade policy course for French-speaking least-developed countries was held in Turin (Italy) in October 1998.

D. TECHNICAL MISSIONS

Fifteen technical missions were undertaken to assist individual least-developed countries in their preparation for their implementation of WTO obligations, with a view to enhancing their participation in the multilateral trading system. They concerned specifically notification obligations, issues relating to the adaptation of internal legislation to WTO disciplines or assistance in accession (Rwanda, Mauritania, Vanuatu, Niger, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Benin, Madagascar, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Chad).

E. ESTABLISHING MODERN DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES

In response to requests for assistance in establishing modern data processing facilities, the Secretariat began a programme to install computers and Internet links in the trade or commerce ministries of all LDCs. At the end of 1998, 42 least-developed countries had been provided with such "Reference Centres" (27 Members and seven Observers).

F. JOINT INTEGRATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Prior to the High-Level Meeting, a Joint Integrated WTO/UNCTAD/ITC Technical Assistance Programme for Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) was adopted in May 1996. It responds to the urgent need of least-developed and other African countries to be assisted in the expansion and diversification of their trade and in the process of their integration into the multilateral trading system. This programme currently covers eight developing countries, four of which are least-developed: Benin, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda. Activities under this Programme for individual LDCs are being subsumed under the Integrated Framework. In 1998, a Common Trust Fund was established to finance country projects by the three organizations involved.

The Integrated Framework has resulted in a smooth-running inter-agency mechanism between the six agencies involved, which WTO chairs and to which it contributes its particular technical expertise to the endeavour. In 1998, the Inter-Agency Working Group met three times, (at the World Bank, at UNDP and at WTO) in addition to daily contact using electronic means. To handle the day-to-day work of and to service meetings of the inter-agency coordination mechanism, the six agencies established the Administrative Unit of the Integrated Framework in 1998, which is located at ITC and ensures its day-to day management. It is up and running since the middle of 1998. WTO finances one professional staff member to this Unit. The Integrated Framework is now on the Internet: <http://www.ldcs.org>, which provides updates on Country Programmes (needs assessments, integrated responses, donor consultations), Programme Participants (LDCs, core organizations, other development partners), Programme Implementation (key data, implementation, progress and other relevant information).

IV. REGIONAL/NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

While some technical assistance activities are financed from the regular budget of the WTO, the bulk of the activities are financed through extra-budgetary contributions by Donors. These contributions are often earmarked for specific activities or programmes, which mostly would not be carried out in the absence of these funds. This chapter summarizes the main activities carried out in different regions and for which extra-budgetary resources were used.

A. AFRICA

(a) Technical Cooperation for Africa in the Multilateral Trading System

Technical assistance delivered by the Secretariat was in the form of establishing WTO reference centers, technical missions, national seminars, regional seminars and participation to conferences or symposia.

Of the 93 activities conducted, technical missions accounted for 64 activities, while establishment of WTO reference centers accounted for 24, regional seminars for 17, national seminars for 7, and participation in symposia/conferences/meetings organized by different institutions for 25 activities. In comparison to 1997 the number of technical assistance activities delivered increased by more than 30% in 1998.

A substantial number of these activities were delivered in the context of the follow-up of specific initiatives undertaken in 1996 and 1997, in particular with regard to the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to support least-developed countries; the Joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP), and the WTO Information Technology for Development Project. The increase in technical assistance activities was also due to requests from individual African countries to implement their WTO obligations, in particular their notification requirements and adaptation of their internal legislation to the WTO Agreements.

Main Features

(i) Technical Missions

The most important activities in number were the different technical missions undertaken by the Secretariat (44). Several of these (17) were undertaken with the view to assist individual countries to comply with their obligations under the WTO, in particular in terms of notifications as well as in terms of adapting their national legislation to the WTO Agreements. Ten requests concerned notifications of which three covered also an adaptation of the existing legislation. Seven technical missions concerned only an amendment of national legislation of which five covered the Customs Valuation Agreement. In addition, four technical missions were undertaken with the view to assist individual countries improve their commitments in financial services as well as in the Information Technology Agreement. Five field missions were undertaken within the framework of JITAP with the view to implement the different activities covered by this Programme in 1998 and beginning of 1999 and eight missions were undertaken as a follow-up to the High-Level Meeting of October 1997.

(ii) Reference Centers

Reference centers under the WTO Information Technology for Development Project were installed in 20 least-developed countries in 1998 as a follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on the trade of the least-developed countries held in October 1997. The missions undertaken during 1998 were aimed at installing computer equipment and providing basic training in computer as well as connecting WTO focal points in the Ministries concerned to Internet information resources. Also, during the year the WTO replaced in November 1998 the WTO Reference Center in Kenya blasted by a bomb in August 1998. Such an action was undertaken in the framework of the Joint Integrated Programme for Technical Assistance in which Kenya is one of the eight participating countries.

(iii) Regional Seminars

Some 17 regional seminars were organized in 1998 of which several of them organized jointly with other international organizations such as the World Bank, WIPO or with sub-regional institutions such as SADC, UDEAC or other international/intergovernmental bodies such as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank, in which several African States are members. Two trade policy seminars on market access were also organized specifically in Zambia and in Djibouti for African least-developed countries as a follow-up to the High-Level Meeting of October 1997. The main subjects that were dealt with in these regional seminars were market access issues, agriculture, environmental issues, regional integration.

(iv) National Seminars

Seven trade policy seminars were undertaken at the request of individual countries of which 6 were undertaken in African least-developed countries. Two national seminars were done in favour of countries seeking accession to the WTO. All these seminars were of a general nature intended to provide a better knowledge of the multilateral trading system and its agreements. In eight seminars, a specific part of their programme was intended at assisting their authorities to implement their obligations, in particular notifications.

(b) Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP)

This programme has developed along the country-level needs assessment and extensive consultations were undertaken by joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO field missions.

During June/July 1998, joint field missions visited each of the seven sub-Saharan countries participating in this project. During these missions, country implementation plans were discussed and adopted in coordination with the National Steering Committees which act as counterparts of the three executing organizations with representatives from the private and public sectors. Consultations were held with UNDP, the World Bank, sub-regional institutions and bilateral donors, who are also members of the National Steering Committees, in order to coordinate JITAP activities with ongoing technical assistance projects.

With the view to finance technical assistance activities under the JITAP and in order to increase efficiency in the identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on individual programme activities, a Common Trust Fund (CTF) was established in February 1998. The CTF is operated under the guidance of the Steering Group of the Joint Programme, composed of representatives of donors to the Fund, the Secretariats of the three cooperating institutions and recipient partners. The CTF, which is managed by ITC through a Fund Administrator, has two windows, namely Window I which is intended to receive unearmarked contributions and Window II which is intended to receive contributions from one or more donors for country projects or components therefrom.

In the activities undertaken in 1998 the following objectives were pursued:

- building national capacity to understand the WTO Agreements and their implications for the countries concerned,
- conforming national policy and regulatory framework to the Agreements of the multilateral trading system,
- enhancing the countries' capacities to take advantage of the Agreements through improved export readiness.

Under the first objective of this programme the WTO has undertaken or participated in the following specific activities:

Two joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO courses were held in Geneva to train presenters in multilateral trading system (MTS) matters in English and in French, respectively. A core number of six resource persons in each country have been trained in all aspects covered by the MTS. For the course in French that was held in November 1998, the three organizations prepared a training pack based on their respective training material available. The training pack will be made available in English soon. In each country the core network of trainers is expected to expand through the organization of in-country seminars and workshops.

During the period under consideration three national trade policy seminars and two subregional specialized seminars were undertaken in JITAP countries.

The WTO has ensured a follow-up concerning the WTO Reference Centers installed in 1997 by providing additional documentation, as well as in providing technical advice for a good maintenance of the equipment delivered in all participating countries. Following the bomb blast in Nairobi on 7 August 1998, the WTO replaced the computer equipment and training material in October/November 1998 and a WTO mission was undertaken in November to train officials in the Ministry of Trade to use the replaced material to the reference center.

With respect to the second objective, the WTO has provided technical assistance to customs administration and has assisted in the implementation of WTO Agreements in individual countries, in particular with respect to notification and amendment of national legal systems to the MTS.

With respect to customs matters, a WTO mission visited Kenya in September 1998 to provide legal assistance relating to the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement whose transitional period finishes on 31 December 1999. Similar missions will be undertaken shortly in response to specific requests by Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Tanzania. In addition, comments were made in December 1998 by the Secretariat with respect to the draft presented by the customs authorities in Kenya of its revised Customs and Excise Legislation.

The WTO Secretariat has received specific requests from Benin, Ghana and Kenya for technical assistance concerning the creation or adaptation of their respective national legislation concerning anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures. Also similar requests were received from Ghana, Uganda and Burkina Faso concerning the overall implementation of WTO Agreements. A technical mission was held in Ghana in September 1998 and three other technical missions are to be undertaken shortly.

Concerning notifications, the WTO has continued to respond to requests made by individual countries in the period under consideration. In addition, the WTO Secretariat has also responded to specific requests made in the area.

Regarding the third objective, the WTO has continued to provide documentation as well as trade statistics to JITAP countries to enhance their possibilities of trade expansion and diversification that are being offered by the MTS.

B. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Several regional activities took place in Asia and the Pacific that were funded from the regular WTO budget and from WTO Trust Funds. These included:

- (a) the fifth annual WTO conference for the 23 Asian developing economies, held in Hong Kong, China from 24 to 27 March 1998, that provided an opportunity for Asian national WTO desk officers to get a deeper understanding of the WTO and of the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements. It assisted them also to set up the necessary linkages between the WTO multilateral trading system and the conduct of their respective national trade policies;
- (b) the aim of the Regional Seminar, held in Singapore, from 29 to 30 October 1998, with the participation of 12 Asian countries, was to review the operation of the dispute settlement mechanism, to take up issues to be discussed in the continuing review, including the problems specific to developing countries in preparing for their government's participation in the DSU review process. Four Asian university law professors (from Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand) gave presentations on how to improve the WTO dispute settlement system. This conference gave an opportunity to the participating officials to make observations relating to their day-to-day work and specific needs as practitioners in world trade policy and dispute settlement. They also emphasized the necessity for the WTO to organize regionally or nationally more training seminars of a three to four-day duration with case studies and simulations on dispute settlement.
- (c) a WTO Regional Workshop on dispute settlement procedures and practices for 23 Asian developing economies was held in Bali, Indonesia from 16 to 18 February 1998. This conference is part of a training programme covering all regions and sub-regions of developing countries and economies in transition;
- (d) a Joint Singapore/WTO Trade Policy Course was held in Singapore from 12 to 27 January 1998. This course, which is held annually in Singapore for trade officials from developing and least-developed countries, was initiated by the Understanding signed by the Trade Minister of Singapore and the Director-General of the WTO at the 1996 WTO Ministerial Conference;
- (e) the annexed table on technical cooperation activities in 1998 shows that a large number of additional activities were carried out at the regional or national levels, directly by the WTO Secretariat or jointly with national administrations, international or regional organizations. These activities cover virtually all subjects of responsibility within the WTO legal system, including needs assessment missions and the establishment of WTO Reference Centers in Asian least-developed countries.

C. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 1998, technical cooperation activities with Latin American and Caribbean countries focused around three broad lines of action: first, strengthening and consolidating collaboration with regional institutions, particularly the Institute for Latin American and Caribbean Integration (INTAL) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), through joint regional seminars and workshops; second, responding to requests at the national level on specific issues, through technical missions; and third, responding to requests for the establishment of coherent national programmes of activities. At the same time, the WTO responded to technical cooperation requests from countries in the region in the context of preparations and negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Finally, regional workshops were also organized fully by the WTO in the context of its regional workshop

programmes on trade and environment and dispute settlement, as well as other subjects such as TBT, SPS and services negotiations.

- (a) Five subregional specialized workshops were organized in 1998 in collaboration with IADB-INTAL on several subjects such as subsidy disciplines in Colombia for Mercosur and Andean countries (4-7 May) and Guatemala for Central American countries (21-24 September), market access issues in Trinidad and Tobago for Caribbean countries (20-24 July) and Honduras for Central American and other Latin American countries (3-7 August), and trade in services in Argentina for Mercosur countries (24-26 August). In these activities, IADB-INTAL provided financing for government participants and undertook all local logistical arrangements, and WTO provided the experts and lecturers. This collaboration is being further enhanced and consolidated in 1999 through a Joint IADB-INTAL/WTO Programme of Technical Cooperation for Latin American and Caribbean countries which will be formally announced in the near future.
- (b) National seminars and technical missions were held on implementation of obligations, renegotiations under Art. XXVIII of the GATT 1994 and assessment of legislation (Haiti, 26-30 January); TBT (Costa Rica 19-20 February); TRIPS (Brazil, 4-7 May and 24-25 September); financial services (Ecuador, 29 July) and GATS (Bolivia, 9-11 November); customs valuation (Paraguay 28 September - 2 October; Peru 14-16 October; Colombia 19-21 October; and Suriname 16-20 November), Antidumping (Venezuela 3-7 August); tariff schedules, lists of concessions and transposition to the Harmonized System (Guatemala 17-18 August; Honduras 19-20 August); regional agreements and WTO rules (Venezuela 14-15 September); and assistance on documentation systems and on-line legal research projects (Colombia 19-23 October). Other technical missions included the establishment of the WTO Reference Centre and its connexion to the Internet in Haiti (20-21 April) and preparations for the Round Table of Haiti in the follow-up to the High Level meeting on the least-developed countries (21-23 September).
- (c) National WTO Seminars were held in Bolivia from 15 to 17 April, Guatemala from 20 to 24 April, Belize on 27 and 28 April, and Suriname on 20 and 21 August. Along with broad explanations and dissemination of information on the WTO and its agreements, discussions were held with national authorities on coherent programmes of activities with each of these countries over the following eighteen months to two years. This approach is continuing in 1999.
- (d) Two regional workshops on dispute settlement (Venezuela, 29 June-2 July and Barbados, 9-12 November) and two on trade and environment (Trinidad and Tobago, 20-24 July, and Chile, 31 August - 4 September) were also held.
- (e) An advanced training programme on a Trade Agenda for the Americas, covering multilateral and regional approaches, was jointly organized by the WTO with the Organization of American States and Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. The WTO provided experts and lecturers, the OAS provided financing for participants and Georgetown University provided the facilities and further lecturers. The course was addressed to trade officials and negotiators of small economy countries in the Western Hemisphere and its main objective was to raise awareness of their countries' commitments in the multilateral trading system so as to ensure the highest possible degree of WTO-consistency in regional integration negotiations. The course was delivered from 2 to 19 June in English and from 29 June to 17 July in Spanish. The WTO also participated in other activities in the context of the FTAA negotiations, such as the workshop on dispute settlement held on 18 February in

Montevideo, Uruguay, prior to the meeting of the FTAA working group on dispute settlement.

- (f) Other activities at the regional level included: a Workshop on the impact of trade liberalization on the manufacturing and export sector of countries members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (Dominica, 19-21 January); a seminar on Services Negotiations organized by SELA (Mexico City, 30 March-1 April); a seminar on the WTO and the multilateral trading system (Netherlands Antilles, 30 March-1 April); a seminar on Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO including the TBT Agreement for Central American countries (Guatemala, 27 April-6 May); a seminar on the SPS Agreement for CARICOM countries (Guyana, 6-8 May); a seminar on Customs Matters for Caribbean states (Bahamas, 8-9 June); a Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights and agriculture for Latin American and Caribbean countries (USA, 11-13 June); a seminar on transparency in government procurement organized by the OAS (Argentina, 7-8 September); a seminar on the International Services Economy for the Rio Group of Latin American countries (Panama, 25-26 November); and a Seminar on Government Procurement for the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) and the Andean Community countries (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru) (Colombia, 30 November - 1 December).

D. EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

Technical cooperation activities carried out in Eastern and Central European and Central Asian Countries included national and regional seminars, technical missions, workshops and training, some of which were financed through extra-budgetary resources. In particular, as detailed below, Switzerland made funds available for special training courses covering different countries in the region. The WTO also participated in a regional seminar organized by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, held in Istanbul and financed through the Netherlands' contribution to the WTO Trust Fund.

E. MIDDLE EAST

A number of technical cooperation activities took place in the Middle East during 1998, comprising eight workshops, conferences, symposia, roundtables and training courses; seven regional seminars; six technical missions; and four national seminars. Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar were the main destinations for the national seminars, while the regional seminars were held in Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. Technical missions on the Harmonized System and customs valuation took place in Bahrain and Oman. Israel benefited from a technical mission on anti-dumping and countervailing duties; Bahrain on the establishment of WTO Reference Centre and training on accessing the wealth of information on the WTO Web site; and Oman on accession.

Training courses were organized in Palestine, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates; symposia were held on the effects of globalization and international trade liberalization on small and medium-sized enterprises in Arab countries, and on WTO and developing countries in the United Arab Emirates; and regional workshops on the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, and on GATS and maritime transport future negotiations were held in Lebanon.

An assessment of these missions points to a deepening of knowledge of the WTO Agreements in the countries concerned. In the case of the United Arab Emirates, the mission led to a proposal by the Director-General of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry to set up national committees to coordinate WTO-related matters in the country. In other cases, the advice provided enabled the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to successfully download from the WTO Web site all the information needed about the Agreement on Agriculture, and WTO functions and activities which

served as useful inputs for its regional study on "Impact of WTO and international trade liberalization on Arab Agriculture".

V. TRADE POLICY COURSES

WTO's technical cooperation activities are generally geared towards enhancing human capacity building through seminars, workshops and training. Trade Policy Courses are also considered effective tools in assisting developing countries as well as countries in accession integrate in or familiarize themselves with the multilateral trading system. The training courses address all aspects of the trading system and through their practical orientation, prepare officials in implementing the obligations resulting from the multilateral trading system in their national administrations. Working relations between the trainees and the WTO Secretariat in many cases continue after the incumbents have taken up duties in their national administration, particularly when the officials have responsibilities in the area of trade policy. Given the oft-reaffirmed usefulness of the training courses, several WTO Members are financing specific training programmes undertaken by the WTO Secretariat. Recipients also insist on their importance as a training tool.

Summary of Activities

(a) Developing countries

The WTO finances and organizes three Trade Policy Courses per year for trade officials from developing countries which are members or observers of the WTO. The Courses, held in English and alternately in French and Spanish, take place in Geneva and last for twelve weeks. From 1955 when the first such courses were held, to April 1999, 1622 officials mainly from developing countries, including 75 in the capacity of 'free' auditors, participated in these courses. Over this period, the courses were shortened from 6 months each at the beginning to 4 from the late '60s, and to 3 as of 1998 when a third regular course was added to the annual programme. The latest compression was also effected to allow for a special six-week course to be held for acceding countries in transition and was done at the cost of both suppressing activities of the regular courses and slowing down the process of adapting the courses to new demands on training, in particular in the field of capacity building in the area of implementation of WTO rules at the national level. The plus side has been, however, that 24 more fellowships could be offered per year (see under '(c) budget' below).

In 1998, the 7th WTO Trade Policy Course (TPC) in Spanish from 14 January to 3 April⁷, the 8th TPC in English from 27 April to 17 July⁸ and the 9th WTO TPC from 14 September to 4 December⁹ were held.

⁷ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela

⁸ Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Egypt, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda and Viet Nam.

⁹ Botswana, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(b) Economies in Transition

As mentioned in passing in (a), the WTO Secretariat also organizes shorter courses (between four and eight weeks duration) for officials from economies in transition which are in the process of accession to the WTO. Since 1991, 308 officials from the economies in transition have been trained in trade, WTO and particularly accession issues through special courses financed by Switzerland (210) and the United States (98) and organized by or with the help of the Training Division of the WTO Secretariat.

In 1998, the 8th Special Course on Accession to WTO for Eastern and Central European and Central Asian Countries was organized for trade officials from economies in transition. This special course was financed by the Swiss authorities and was held between 20 May and 3 July, comprising 21 participants from 13 countries.¹⁰

Objectives

The overall objective of these kinds of courses is to widen the participating officials' understanding of trade policy matters, the multilateral trading system, international trade law and the functioning of the WTO. The knowledge acquired is expected to allow participating officials to improve the effectiveness of their work in their own administrations and to promote a more active participation of their countries in the work of the WTO.

There are specific objectives corresponding to the main course components, e.g., presentations and discussions on WTO agreements to acquaint participants with their content and legal/trade policy implications; negotiation simulations to help participants understand the psychology, process and substance of trade negotiations; dispute settlement exercises to facilitate practical understanding of how cases are prepared and disputes resolved, etc.

Content of Courses

The Trade Policy Courses are designed to meet both the overall and specific objectives.

The programme for the developing country courses is comprehensive and consists of various theoretical and practical components designed to explain the trade policy context of the WTO as well as its key functions: facilitating the implementation and operation of the Multilateral Trade Agreements; providing a forum for negotiations; administering the understanding on dispute settlement and the TPR mechanism; and cooperating with the World Bank and the IMF to achieve greater coherence in global economic policy-making. Given its role and expertise, the WTO Secretariat in close cooperation with other relevant organizations (UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, ITU, ISO) is well placed to plan and deliver this kind of specialized training service to officials from Members and Observer countries.

The programme for economies in transition elaborated in coordination with the trust fund donors is more specific as it is tailored to understanding accession-related issues. (A full description of WTO Trade Policy Courses is available on the WTO home page: www.wto.org under the heading Trade Policy Courses)

¹⁰ Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Resource Allocation

WTO Budget: for each developing country Trade Policy Course, 24 participants are financed by WTO fellowship awards which cover travel expenses to and from Geneva, hotel accommodation, sickness and accident insurance and a per diem to meet daily living expenses in Geneva and on study tour (there are no tuition fees for participants). Each participant costs approximately SFr 20,000, meaning that 24 fellowship awards per course amounts to approximately SFr 500,000. The WTO training budget covers the costs of three courses per year. In 1998, the budget was increased from SFr 1.2 to SFr 1.5 million, to pay for the addition of a third trade policy course. This represents a budgetary increase of 25% in order to enlarge the number of trade officials trained by 50% (from 48 to 72 fellowship awards per year), without additional human resources for the Training Division.

Trust funds: the special trade policy courses for the economies in transition are financed by the Swiss and United States Governments. The financing is the same as for the regular courses in that the budget is dedicated mainly to the travel and subsistence costs of the officials invited. It also includes provision for a 13% overhead cost. The Secretariat is currently studying various alternatives for providing technical assistance to this group of countries.

The presentations and exercises are carried out to a large extent by secretariat officials dealing directly with the respective subjects, and also by some outside experts and consultants, although very few of these can be paid. Emphasis is laid on developing synergies with organizations such as the World Bank, UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, WCO, ITU and ISO where their experience and expertise can be used as complementary course inputs at no extra cost to the WTO.

Internal Evaluation of Activities

Evaluation of WTO Trade Policy Courses currently takes place at three levels.

Selection of participants

Current practice: WTO Trade Policy Courses are open to government officials from developing countries and economies in transition. Officials most likely to benefit from the training are currently working in the field of foreign trade policy who need to obtain a wider knowledge of the WTO and the multilateral trading system before assuming further responsibilities in this field.

Emphasis is laid on getting clear information from governments on the following questions regarding their nominees for the courses: relevance of the course to the current or immediately prospective duties of a nominee; use by the nominee of knowledge and skills gained on the course upon returning to work; expectations regarding the nominees' future positions and ability to make significant impact in the relevant ministry; assessment of nominee's language (WTO working languages) skills including ability to grasp technical/legal/economic vocabulary.

Evaluation of current practice: the above criteria are spelled out in the invitation sent to governments for nomination of candidates and in the application form for candidatures. On the basis of the information received, the Secretariat selects the most suitable candidates.

Course delivery and programme elaboration

During the trade policy courses, participants are asked to prepare evaluation reports at certain points during and at the end of the course. The method used is a questionnaire covering each course component together with a discussion session of *programme critique* led by the Training Division. This form of evaluation gives the Secretariat feedback on the value of the information and knowledge received by the participants and on whether the specific objectives of that component were met. Conclusions are then drawn with a view to making concrete improvements to the next course, i.e.,

discarding course elements perceived to be redundant and adapting existing components or developing new ones.

Detailed reports are available from the Secretariat regarding previous courses but the general trend seems to be that trainees want more participatory and practical exercises in order to acquire knowledge and skills which are directly relevant in their jobs. The Training Division, in close cooperation with operational divisions of the Secretariat, is therefore developing a course curriculum and training material containing more practical exercises in which participants perform individually or in teams.

This type of internal evaluation, based on participant perceptions and the Training Division's insights and experience, relates to the quality of course components and their specific training objectives and how to make continuous improvements to them.

More active interaction between training (capacity building) and country-based technical assistance is currently being introduced in cooperation other organizations which provide technical cooperation

Course follow-up

An important measure of how well the trade policy courses meet the overall training objective lies with identifiable improvements back on the job. This aspect of evaluation is currently under development in the Training Division in order to monitor how effectively institutional capacity building is being developed and maintained in the relevant ministries of the participants.

The Training Division is currently developing an evaluation system for the post-course phase with a view to measuring the effectiveness of the training activity. The foundation of this is the establishment of a data base through which the Training Division can follow, for a reasonable period of time, the careers of the course participants. Do participants stay in their jobs when they have completed the course? To what extent are they engaged directly in WTO work? What percentage of participants get promotion having used the knowledge they acquired during the course in day to day work? How many participants return to Geneva as delegates? How do participants further their knowledge of the WTO having completed the trade policy courses?

VI. AN ASSESSMENT OF WTO's TECHNICAL COOPERATION

This report contains a combination of qualitative and quantitative information, but does not provide an assessment of the impact of the assistance. The information currently available within the Secretariat, does not allow for such an impact assessment. Other than measuring the frequency of visits to the Internet, mostly performed through the WTO Reference Centres, quantitative indicators to measure the impact of the assistance provided are not yet available. At the last meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development (2 March 1999), Members agreed with proposals prepared by the Secretariat to conduct the evaluation of WTO's technical cooperation on a regular basis. This evaluation will be done on the basis of questionnaires prepared to that effect. A first evaluation report, based on the proposed methodology, will be produced in early Spring of the year 2000. Such evaluation will cover all technical cooperation activities carried out by the WTO, including those conducted with extra-budgetary funds.

A first global appraisal within the Secretariat to assess WTO technical cooperation activities undertaken by individual staff members and assessed by these same staff members confirms that a variety of factors determine the outcome of these activities. Among these factors are:

- the mode of delivery for meeting a specific demand;

- the duration of the activity;
- the degree of specificity;
- were the objectives well defined, so as to meet participants' expectations?
- did the right target group attend the activity?
- the level of attendance throughout the activity;
- were preparations of the seminars (timing, documentation, logistics, conference facilities) adequate?
- was there a follow-up to the activity?

VII. BUDGETARY ASPECTS

Following the request of delegations at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Committee on Trade and Development, on March 1999, and internal Task Force Report on Enhanced WTO Technical Cooperation was circulated to Members. In the document, on the assessment of resource needs, it was generally observed that resource needs are of a large magnitude, due to the potential requirements of technical cooperation from developing, least developed and economies in transition Members, as well as states and customs territories in the process of accession. Over the years, the financial outlays for technical cooperation activities have increased manifold, with extra-budgetary resources contributing over 80 per cent of the requirements. Dependence on ad hoc grants made it difficult to plan technical cooperation activities, which was necessary for efficiency. The Task Force therefore emphasized that the goal of increasing the regular budget for technical cooperation should remain a priority.

An assessment of resource needs should take into account the evolving nature of the rules-based multilateral trading system and, in this context, the need for at least, three levels of activity:

- first, general dissemination of the overview of the WTO and its agreements, present and future;
- second, more in-depth upgrading of developing countries' human resources skills in order to function efficiently in their participation in the WTO, including its decision-making process; and
- third, the level of specialized knowledge required for the implementation of WTO commitments, (i.e. training customs officials on the WTO customs valuation methods, establishing inquiring points, standardization systems and conformity assessment procedures as required by the TBT agreement, evolving risk assessment techniques as required in the SPS agreement; training on the calculation of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, etc.).

An additional element to be considered is the continuous renewal of developing countries' administrations, with new government officials requiring repeats of information and training on the WTO agreements.

The activities planned for 1999 include a number of regional, sub-regional and national seminars, workshops and technical missions, organized on the basis of requests received and the broad lines of action set out by the various Divisions on their specific subjects. Inasmuch as the Three-Year Plan, and in particular the annual programme of activities, is constructed in a demand-driven context, programmes are prepared normally on an ad hoc basis. As a result, there is a difference between planned and executed activities. Owing to the evolving trade policy environment

as well as to the fluctuating workload of the Secretariat on account of disputes and new negotiations discrepancies between planned and actually delivered technical assistance are, to some extent, inevitable.

On the basis of the above, an attempt has been made to project annual resource needs for WTO technical cooperation activities in the medium term, in such a way as to present a coherent and sustainable programme of activities with clearly specified objectives as a tool for broad planning and programming purposes. The results of the exercise are shown in the Annex to the report. The global estimates of resource requirements are based on the level of annual activities reached over the past four years.

As against the outlay of SFR 7.05 million during 1998 (SFR 1.53 million on Trade Policy Courses and SFR 5.52 million for other technical cooperation activities) the estimated annual financial resource requirement in the next five years has been estimated at SFR 9.18 million (SFR 1.53 million for Trade Policy Courses and SFR 7.65 million for other technical cooperation activities). The specific components are described in the annex but these should be considered as indicative in nature and are likely to evolve with the changing priorities of Members.

ATTACHMENT I

The Information Technologies for Development (ITD)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Information Technologies for Development (ITD) project was initiated in late 1997 with equal financial support from Norway and the Netherlands. The total budget was CHF 785,000. The following is a summary of results from implementation of the project.

A. Coordination: The ITD project has proven to be a catalyst within the WTO for the use of Information Technologies in the development and delivery of technical cooperation. Components of the ITD project have been instrumental in the success of a number of related initiatives, most notably the WTO Reference Centres. The ITD project supported a pilot program in October-December 1997 for the establishment of seven WTO Reference Centres in African trade ministries. The success of the pilot project, which provided equipment and training for the initial seven WTO Reference Centres, led to requests from WTO LDCs and developing country Members to expand the program. The model developed in the pilot project has since been applied in over 40 trade ministries and will have been extended to 69 LDCs and other developing countries by the end of 1999.

There is also coordination between the ITD project and related activities with International Trade Centre (ITC), UNCTAD and the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank. There has also been an on-going coordination with about 20 International organizations active in developing information technology applications in developing countries, through a voluntary group called Partnerships for Information and Communications Technology in Africa (PICTA). Those members include the World Bank, UNESCO, ITU, USAID, IDRC, etc.

B. Hands-on Training: ITD contributions to training of LDCs and other developing country trade officials include:

- (a) WTO Trade Policy Courses: The ITD project has provided computer equipment and training so that participants in the regular training courses can learn to access WTO computerized information resources. About 200 trainees have benefited from this new training component since the start of the ITD project.
- (b) WTO Reference Centres: The ITD project has contributed to the training program for LDCs and other developing country trade policy officials who are responsible for WTO Reference Centres. The training materials developed as part of the ITD have been central to this training effort in trade ministries. Since 1997, about 600 staff and officials in LDCs and other developing country trade ministries have benefited from this training, which enables them to access and use WTO information resources on the Internet and on CD-ROMs.

C. Information and Training materials: The ITD project has developed or contributed to the development of the following:

- (a) Interactive Guides:
 - (i) Guide to the WTO (Trading Into the Future);
 - (ii) Guide to the WTO and Developing countries;
 - (iii) Guide to Reading Schedules;
 - (iv) Guide to Dispute Settlements.

The first two are in print and electronic forms, while the latter two are still in production. The finished guides are still being provided to WTO Reference Centres and to Trade Policy trainees. They are also available on the WTO Internet site and on the ITD Internet site. About 1,600 copies of the electronic versions of these guides are downloaded every month from these two Internet sites. It is estimated that over 25,000 electronic guides have been distributed over the past year through the Internet, on CD-ROM and/or on diskette.

B. Trade and Development Centre: Part of the ITD project has been to set up an Internet site with information and training resources designed to meet the needs of LDCs and other developing country trade officials. The Internet site is used by about 5,000 visitors per month. The content includes:

- (i) On-line fora on trade issues of interest to developing countries: Six fora have been organized over the past year with participation from about 800 users world wide, mostly from LDCs and other developing countries. Two of the fora were organized jointly with the World Bank.
 - (ii) Developing country case studies: Four extensive case studies have been developed and are available on the ITD Internet site.
 - (iii) Interactive training guides. These can be viewed online or downloaded from the ITD Internet site.
- **WTO information on CD-ROM:** ITD has contributed to production and/or distribution of the following information tools to WTO Reference Centres in LDCs and other developing countries.
 - WTO and ITD Internet sites on CD-ROM. This is particularly useful in saving connection time for LDCs and other developing countries.
 - WTO training package on CD-ROM.
 - Copies for Reference Centres of CD-ROM collections, including UR Results, BISD and TPR collections, Analytical Index on CD-ROM, Annual Report on CD-ROM.

D. Computer equipment: The ITD funds have been used to provide the following computer equipment for use by LDCs and other developing country trade officials:

- Ten personal computers and software were provided to the Training Division for use by WTO Trade Policy Course participants.
- Personal computers, software, printers, modems, etc. for seven WTO Reference Centres within the pilot project for WTO Reference Centres.
- Demonstration and presentation equipment that has been used by the ITD project for training, presentations and demonstrations focused on the results of the project.

E. The Next steps: The ITD project remains instrumental in developing electronic training and information materials for LDCs and other developing countries. Some of the current and future activities are:

- Continued development of Internet and CD-based information material for WTO Reference Centres, as well as for use in other WTO activities, including Trade Policy Courses.
- Expansion of the ITD Internet site to include more case studies, on-line fora and other content.
- Development of a library of interactive training tools on CD-ROM. The first such module has been completed. It offers users three hours of interactive course material on the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. The objective is to develop similar modules for all other WTO Agreements.

- Training in the use of information material on the Internet and on CD-ROM, including the use of specialized databases, remains the most important need identified by LDCs and other developing country trade officials who have benefited from ITD activities.

ATTACHMENT II

JITAP Progress Report **(Period ended 28 February 1999)**

Joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Integrated Technical Assistance Programme to Selected Least Developed and other African Countries (JITAP) (Financed by 13 donors through the Common Trust Fund (CTF))

PROGRESS TO DATE

The funding position of the programme is given in Annex I.

The JITAP programme was developed by ITC, UNCTAD and WTO to help selected least developed and other countries in Africa participate more effectively in the evolving Multilateral Trading System (MTS) and to benefit from it. The Common Trust Fund (CTF) which financed the JITAP programme was created in March 1998 and this report describes the progress made in implementing the programme during the period ended 28 February 1999. The 1st meeting of the Steering Group of the Common Trust Fund was held in April 1998 followed by two other meetings in June and November 1998.

During the earlier part of the period, detailed planning for implementation was undertaken by the three executing organizations. Two ITC/UNCTAD/WTO joint field missions were undertaken in East and West Africa during which the 7 Sub-Saharan countries under JITAP were visited. During these missions country implementation plans were adopted in conjunction with the National Steering Committees (NSCs) which act as counterparts of the three organizations with representatives from the private and public sectors and the donor community. Consultations in the countries were held with UNDP, the World Bank and bilateral donors who are also members of the NSCs in order to coordinate JITAP activities with ongoing technical assistance projects.

Country specific project activities were organized in clusters spanning the participating countries. The programme addresses the needs of the countries concerned by grouping closely related activities into these distinct groups thereby achieving synergies and economies of scale. It has 15 clusters and over 150 activities in each country.

During the period under review work commenced on 13 clusters and implementation began in earnest during the second half of the year. Total expenditure for the JITAP projects as of 31 December 1998 was US\$ 640,000.

Two regional co-ordinators were appointed in Eastern and Western Africa stationed in Kampala and Abidjan. The Tunisia project is managed directly from Geneva in collaboration with UNDP. In each country, except the duty stations of the regional co-ordinators, national facilitators were being appointed to help with the logistics of the activities to be undertaken.

An intensive course was held for 23 participants from Francophone countries for training of trainers on the Multilateral Trading System in November/December 1998. A similar course for 24 participants had been held for the Anglophone countries in November-December 1997. These courses sought to develop capacity in key institutions on WTO regulations and the consequences of the emerging rule based trading system for the countries concerned. Based on existing WTO, UNCTAD and ITC material, a comprehensive training pack was prepared for the Francophone course and will be refined, translated and used broadly within the JITAP Programme by institutions that seek to impart training on MTS.

Two advisory missions on the adaptation of the two ITC guides namely "*Trade Secrets*", and "*How to Approach Banks*" and another such mission on TBT/SPS/quality management and export packaging took place in November 98 to the three East African countries, and in February 1999 to the four West African countries. The objective of the first missions was to explain the process of adaptation of both ITC generic guides to local resource persons to enable them to prepare the national versions of each publication in due course. The objective of the other mission was to assess the existing capacity for quality management, TBT and SPS and to help in establishing National Enquiry Points (NEPs) in all seven countries.

Consultations on the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement and other customs matters were also held between the WTO Secretariat and customs administrations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Kenya. Following these, WTO provided documentation on customs matters to customs administrations of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda and will continue to do so on a regular basis.

A feasibility study was undertaken for the establishment of a Communication and Discussion Facility (CDF) in Geneva that will be accessible to all JITAP countries through the Internet. The CDF comprises databases and programmes to manage JITAP documentation exchange and facilitate on-line discussion and sharing of experience among programme partners and resource persons. Work is in progress for developing a prototype for limited use by the three executing organizations and selected focal points. The production version of the CDF is expected to accommodate all users involved in implementing JITAP activities.

While the Reference centres for official use were fully delivered by the WTO to the focal points, Reference Centres for the business community were being set up by ITC at eight trade promotion organizations to help the business communities in sourcing information on rules and regulations of the Uruguay Round agreements, assessing market access conditions and identifying opportunities for trade and investment. A standard package of MTS related documentation was designed and relevant documents for this were ordered. In addition, standard equipment was being procured to facilitate access to web sites of WTO, UNCTAD, ITC and those of other organizations. This is also expected to improve training and information dissemination events. UNCTAD's preparatory work was well advanced for the establishment of four Reference Centres for academic use at identified training institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

During the period under review UNCTAD launched seven country specific MTS impact studies. These were aimed at assisting governments to better understand the overall impact of the MTS on their respective countries and thus facilitate adaptation of national policies to be in line with WTO Agreements. The studies will assist them in taking steps to benefit from the trading opportunities that become available as a result of trade liberalization and to meet this challenge through the development of strategic options for increasing exports. They will also provide an analytical basis to the countries for developing a positive agenda for trade negotiations.

Draft country reports were prepared based on statistical analysis by ITC's Research and Analysis Unit in order to prepare country matrices of exportable products and target markets. These reports cover the two main hundred exported products for each country during the period of 1993-1997. For ten selected product groups, detailed trade mapping was provided to national counterpart organizations, for review and comments. After receiving their feedback these trade maps will be refined to provide inputs for development of sector, and product-group strategies.

Standard equipment and technical documentation are being delivered to the National Standards Boards to help strengthen capacity for the operation of the National Enquiry Points. Designing of national databases on international quality and export packaging requirements for priority products of the JITAP countries is underway to enable NEPs to provide the required information as stipulated by WTO agreements on TBT and SPS.

Progress by cluster is given in Annex II, while country details are given in Annex III.

Annex I

Funding position

Funding details by country and by donors are given in the attached Table-A. This shows that the total amount needed for the programme is US\$ 10,344,100 of which US\$ 7,115,536 has been pledged leaving a shortfall of 3,228,564 as of 28 February 1999.

Cash position

Cash received as at 28 February 1999 was US\$ 4,090,468, of which US\$ 882,284 was for Window-1 and US\$ 3,208,183 was for Window-2. Window-1 resources have been allocated to fund projects in countries having a shortfall, or to projects in countries that have not yet benefited from the Window-2 donor pledged funds. This allocation is as follows: Côte d'Ivoire - US\$ 338,072, Kenya - US\$ 353,071, Tunisia - US\$ 29,500, and Programme Development - US\$ 161,641.

Interest earned in 1998 amounted to US\$ 83,980. This will be distributed in compliance with the general conditions governing the operation of CTF and the respective donor bilateral agreements.

Annex II

Progress by cluster

Cluster 1: Integrated programme management and headquarters-based technical inputs

Two regional co-ordinators were appointed in East Africa and in West Africa, stationed at Kampala and Abidjan respectively. The Tunisia project is handled directly from Geneva in collaboration with UNDP. In each country - except the duty stations of the regional co-ordinators - a national facilitator is being appointed to help with the logistics of activities. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has allocated at its own cost official accommodation for the Regional Coordinator based in Abidjan. In Kampala, the Government of Uganda has temporarily accommodated the Regional Coordinator at the premises of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry.

Cluster 2: Support to MTS institutions

All 7 countries have been provided by UNCTAD with TOR for inter-institutional committees which have been established to provide a useful forum for consideration and coordination of MTS matters including countries' preparations for trade negotiations. Additional documentation, some of which in electronic form, was provided to Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya and Tunisia by WTO. At their request, specific institutions were added to the WTO mailing list and receive free of charge specific WTO publications. MTS-related documentation was also provided under cluster 5 as explained below.

Cluster 3: Assistance to customs

A WTO mission visited Kenya in September 1998 to provide technical assistance relating to the prompt implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement by this country at the expiry of the five-year period on 31 December 1999. Technical missions to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Uganda were being planned for 1999.

Consultations on the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement and other customs matters were also held between the WTO Secretariat and customs administrations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire. The Draft Customs and Excise legislation of Kenya was reviewed in December/January by the Market Access Division of the WTO and comments were provided to the Kenyan authorities.

The WTO was providing documentation on customs matters on a regular basis to customs administrations of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Cluster 4: Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

The WTO Secretariat received specific requests for technical assistance concerning the implementation of WTO Agreements from Uganda, Benin, Burkina Faso and Kenya. A technical mission on implementation issues was undertaken in Ghana in 1998. This mission reviewed with Ghanaian authorities the main changes needed so as to adjust the country's trade legislation to conform to WTO Agreements.

Kenyan authorities requested assistance concerning the Industrial Property Tribunal Office in December 1998. This project was being undertaken by WIPO in conjunction with the WTO. National experience in implementing the WTO Agreements by other WTO members was provided. In particular the WTO Secretariat was maintaining close contacts with the Ministry of Trade Tourism and Industry (MTTI) and the Ugandan Law Reform Commission since mid-December 1998. Technical issues were brought to the attention of the Canadian authorities to facilitate the implementation process with Canadian help.

Cluster 5: Reference Centres

Reference centres were being set up by ITC at eight trade promotion organizations, to help the business communities in sourcing information on rules and regulations of the Uruguay Round agreements, assessing market access conditions and identifying opportunities for trade and investment. A standard package of MTS related documentation was designed and relevant documents for this package were ordered. In addition, standard equipment was procured to facilitate access to information on the web sites of ITC, UNCTAD, WTO and those of other institutions and to improve the organization of training and information dissemination events. UNCTAD's preparatory work was well advanced for the establishment of four Reference Centres for academic users at identified training institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Following the bomb blast in Nairobi on 7 August 1998 which destroyed among other things, the computer equipment and technical documentation for the reference centre at the focal point as well as some of the training materials supplied to the Kenyan group of trainers, WTO replaced the equipment and the technical documentation for this centre.

Cluster 6: Trade information management

Activities under this cluster will commence in 1999.

Cluster 7: Networking programme partners and national networks of trainers/presenters and MTS experts

A Communication and Discussion Facility (CDF) was being developed to facilitate flow of information among JITAP partners. It has four modules: (i) "Communication module" to facilitate communication among programme partners. This aims at making information easily available on a JITAP web site, whereby JITAP counterpart organizations, trainers and resource persons have the opportunity to access information on programme implementation and on results of activities implemented under the Programme; (ii) "Questions and Answers module", which consists of a questions and answers section relating to the implementation of the programme and related issues, the undertaking of training and information dissemination activities; (iii) "Newsgroup module", which allows for thematic exchange of views and experiences on MTS; and (iv) "On-line chat module", allowing for interactive debate on selected topics among programme partners, and resource persons.

The CDF will link the web sites of the three executing organizations namely ITC, WTO and UNCTAD. In addition, it will also interlink WTO/World Bank Trade Development Centre (TDC), and the Integrated Framework web sites.

Cluster 8: Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

Two joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO courses were held in Geneva to train trainers, presenters, and experts knowledgeable in multilateral trading system matters, one for Anglophone and one for Francophone country participants. A core number of six to seven resource persons in each country was trained in all aspects covered by the WTO agreements. For the course in French, the three organizations prepared a training pack based on their respective training materials for later use by national trainers to continue this process. The training pack will be made available in English later.

Cluster 9: MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

Studies on the impact of MTS on national economies and external trade policy adaptation were initiated by UNCTAD in seven countries. The studies were undertaken in collaboration with ITC and will draw on its “product potential work” under Cluster 11. The findings from these studies will be presented to national, high-level symposia to be organized in all the seven countries later in 1999.

Cluster 10: Human resource development in national and sectoral export strategy formulation

Activities under this cluster are planned to be undertaken in 1999.

Cluster 11: Assessment of export and market potentials

Preparation of matrices of target markets and exportable goods were initiated by ITC in the seven Sub-Saharan JITAP countries. Draft country reports were prepared, based on statistical analysis by ITC's Research and Analysis Unit. These cover the main two hundred products exported by each country during the period of 1993-1997. For ten selected product groups, detailed trade mapping was provided to national counterpart organizations, for review and comments. Upon receiving the feedback from the field, the reports will be analysed by product specialists and by export strategists and country-specific export strategy options will be developed. These options will be reviewed by the UNCTAD teams to determine their policy implications, and their findings will be submitted for discussion at the national symposia mentioned under cluster 9.

Cluster 12: Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to draw advantage of the MTS opportunities

Activities under this cluster are planned to be undertaken in 1999, based on conclusions of the national symposia.

Cluster 13: Trade Secrets, the Export Answer book for SMEs, and Cluster 14: Export financing

Four advisory field missions, two in each subregion (East and West) visited the countries covered by the Programme to train the local teams who will adapt the two ITC generic versions of the guides. Consultations are under way to determine the terms and conditions under which the local versions will be prepared and distributed to exporters as technical tools for improving their international trade operations.

Cluster 15: National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Two technical advisory missions were undertaken in November 1998 (East Africa) and February 1999 (West Africa) to assess the needs for establishing the National Enquiry Points (NEPs) required under the Uruguay Round Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS).

Standard equipment and technical documentation are being procured for the National Standards Boards. Preparation of national databases on international quality and export packaging requirements is underway, for priority products of the countries concerned.

Annex III

Country details

Benin

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Partly funded by CTF Window II: Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1 - Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

The implementation plan for 1998/1999 was adopted by the National Steering Committee during the joint field mission in July 1998. Revision underway to cover Jan-Dec 1999. A National Facilitator is being identified.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD. WTO has provided additional material some in electronic form to the IIC in addition to that provided to the Reference centre at the focal point. Specific institutions were added to WTO's mailing list on their request.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs

A request for technical assistance relating to the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement at the expiry of the 5-year transitional period on 31 December 1999 has recently been received. A technical mission will soon visit the country.

Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

The WTO Secretariat received a specific request for technical assistance concerning the overall implementation of WTO Agreements by Benin. A specific technical mission will be undertaken for this in due course.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministère du Commerce de l'Artisanat et du Tourisme (MCAT) (focal point). Establishment of a reference centre for business use is underway at the Centre Béninois du Commerce Extérieur (CBCE) for joint use by them and the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Benin (CCIB), the Conseil National pour l'Exportation (CNEX), and the Observatoire des Opportunités d'Affaires. Equipment and standard MTS documentation for this centre are being procured at present.

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 6 trainers, presenters and experts was trained in Geneva (November - December 1998). The participants came from MCAT, CCIB, CBCE and the Customs Department. National training and information dissemination programme is expected to be submitted soon by Benin.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study being undertaken now.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

Draft report on a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods submitted to CBCE which is expected to review it and provide comments. The report will be used for future work under Cluster 12 (Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to draw advantage from opportunities offered by the emerging MTS).

Cluster 13 - Trade secrets, the Export Answer book for SMEs

Adaptation process for "*Trade Secrets, the Export Answer Book*" to be undertaken by CBCE. Joint publication agreement and modalities for preparing and publishing the guide now being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation process for "*How to approach Banks*" to be undertaken by CBCE. Joint publication agreement and modalities are being reviewed by the national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

Burkina Faso

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Partly funded by CTF Window II: Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands and Norway

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1: Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

The implementation plan for 1998/1999 was adopted by the National Steering Committee during the Joint Field mission in June-July 1998. Revision underway for the period January-December 1999. A National Facilitator has been identified and contracting procedure being completed at present.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD. WTO has provided additional material including some in electronic form to the IIC in addition to that provided to the Reference centre at the focal point. Specific institutions were added to WTO's mailing list and are now receiving WTO technical publications free of charge.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs

Elements of the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement and other customs matters have been discussed between the WTO Secretariat and customs administrations of Burkina Faso. WTO continues to provide, on a regular basis, documentation on customs matters to the customs administrations of the country.

Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

The WTO Secretariat received a specific request from Burkina Faso for technical assistance concerning the overall implementation of the WTO agreements. A specific technical mission will be undertaken for this in due course.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministère du Commerce de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat (focal point). Establishment of a reference centre for business use is underway at the Office National du Commerce Extérieur (ONAC). Equipment and standard MTS documentation are being procured.

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 7 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1998). The participants came from the Ministère du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat (MCIA), the Chambre de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Artisanat du Burkina Faso (CCIA-BF), the Ministère de la Justice, Ministère de l'Agriculture, and the Office National du Commerce Extérieur (ONAC) which paid for the participation of an additional person from its own resources. A national training and information dissemination programme is expected to be submitted in due course by Burkina Faso.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study being undertaken now.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

Draft report on a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods was submitted to ONAC, who is expected to review it and provide technical inputs. The report will be used for future work under Cluster 12 (Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to take advantage from opportunities offered by the emerging MTS).

Cluster 13 - Trade secrets, the Export Answer book for SMEs

Adaptation process for “*Trade Secrets, the Export Answer Book*” to be undertaken by ONAC. Joint publication agreement signed. Modalities for preparing and publishing the guide now being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation process for “*How to approach Banks*” to be undertaken by ONAC. Joint publication agreement signed and modalities are being discussed with national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for fielding a technical advisory mission for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

Côte d’Ivoire

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Partly funded by CTF Window I; and by CTF Window II: Côte d’Ivoire

In the absence of CTF Window-2 funding, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire allocated financing from national resources equivalent to one third of the total project budget.

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1 - Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

Implementation plan for 1998-1999 adopted by National Steering Committee (NSC). Revision underway to cover January - December, 1999. Regional Coordinator/Chief Technical Adviser for West Africa posted in Abidjan. He has assumed the role of National Facilitator also and will supervise the National facilitators in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. The Government has allocated, free of charge, office space for the Regional Coordinator in Abidjan.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD. WTO has provided additional material including some in electronic form to the IIC in addition to that provided to the reference centre at the focal point. Specific institutions were added to WTO's mailing list and are now receiving WTO technical publications free of charge.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs

A request for technical assistance relating to the prompt implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement at the expiry of the 5-year transitional period on 31 December 1999 has recently been received. A technical mission will visit the country soon. WTO continues to provide, on a regular basis, documentation on customs matters to the customs administrations of the country.

Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

No specific request was received by WTO from Côte d'Ivoire for technical assistance under this cluster.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministère du Commerce (focal point). Establishment of a reference centre for the use by the business community, is underway at the Association de Promotion des Exportations de Côte d'Ivoire (APEX-CI). Equipment and standard MTS documentation are being procured.

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 6 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1998). The participants came from the Ministère de la Promotion du Commerce Extérieur (one of them to be attached to the APEX-CI), the la Direction des Douanes, and the Ministère du Développement Industriel. A National training and information dissemination programme is expected to be submitted in due course by Côte d'Ivoire.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study is currently being undertaken.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

Counterpart organization for the undertaking a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods has been identified, and draft report on such a matrix has been submitted to them. APEX-CI is providing technical inputs to this report at present.

Cluster 13 - Trade secrets, the Export Answer book for SMEs

Adaptation process for “*Trade Secrets, the Export Answer Book*” to be undertaken by APEX-CI. Joint publication agreement and modalities for preparing and publishing the guide now being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation of the guide “*How to Approach Banks*” to be undertaken by APEX-CI. Joint publication agreement and modalities are being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for fielding a technical advisory mission for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

Ghana

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Fully funded by CTF Window II: Switzerland

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1 - Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

The implementation plan for 1998-1999 was adopted by National Steering Committee during the joint field mission in June 1998. Revision underway to cover Jan-Dec 1999; National Facilitator identified, contracting procedure being completed at present.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD. WTO has provided additional material some in electronic form to the IIC in addition to that provided to the Reference centre at the focal point. Specific institutions were added to WTO's mailing list and are now receiving WTO technical publications free of charge.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs

A request for technical assistance relating to the prompt implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement at the expiry of the 5-year transitional period on 31 December 1999 has recently been received. A technical mission will visit the country soon. WTO continues to provide, on a regular basis, documentation on customs matters to customs administrations of the country.

Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

A technical mission on implementation issues has been undertaken in Ghana in 1998. This mission was intended to discuss the major changes that are needed so as to adjust Ghanaian legislation to WTO Agreements.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) (focal point). Establishment of the reference centre for business use is underway at the Ghana Export Promotion Council (GEPC). Equipment and standard MTS documentation are being procured; arrangements are underway to procure equipment for the establishment of the Reference Centre for academic use at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 6 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1997). The participants came from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and the Ghana Standards Board (GSB). A national training and information dissemination programme is expected to be submitted in due course by Ghana.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study is currently being undertaken.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

The draft report on a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods was submitted to GEPC, who is expected to review and comment on it. The report will be used for future work under Cluster 12 (Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to draw advantage from opportunities offered by the emerging MTS).

Cluster 13 - Trade secrets, the Export Answer book for SMEs

Adaptation process of "*Trade Secrets, the Export Answer Book*" to be undertaken by GEPC. Joint publication agreement signed. Modalities for preparing and publishing the guide now being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation process for “*How to Approach Banks*” to be undertaken by GEPC. Joint publication agreement signed and modalities are being discussed at present with the national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

Kenya

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Partly funded by CTF Window I

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1 - Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

Implementation plan for 1998-1999 adopted by National Steering Committee (Joint Field mission in May 1998). Revision underway to cover Jan-Dec 1999; National Facilitator identified, contract under discussion.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD. WTO has provided additional material some in electronic form to the IIC in addition to that provided to the Reference centre at the focal point. Specific institutions were added to WTO's mailing list and are now receiving WTO technical publications free of charge.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs

A WTO mission has visited Kenya in September 1998 to provide technical assistance relating to the prompt implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement at the expiry of the 5-year transitional period on 31 December 1999. Comments relating to the draft of the Customs and Excise legislation of Kenya were made in December/January by the Market Access Division of the WTO. WTO continues to provide, on a regular basis, documentation on customs matters to customs administrations of the country.

Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

The WTO Secretariat received specific requests for technical assistance concerning the implementation of WTO Agreements, notably relating to anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures and intellectual property rights.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministry of Trade (focal point) and replaced in 1998 after the bomb blast. For the second reference centre, geared to the business community, needs were assessed and installation is underway at the Export Promotion Council (EPC). Equipment and standard MTS documentation are being delivered; arrangements are already underway to procure equipment for the establishment of the Reference Centre for academic use at the Kenya Institute of Business Training in Nairobi.

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 6 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1997). The participants came from the Ministry of Trade, EPC, the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) and the Kenya Institute of Management (KIM). A National training and information dissemination programme for 1999 is expected to be submitted in due course by Kenya.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study is currently being undertaken.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

Draft report on a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods submitted to EPC which is expected to review it and provide technical inputs. The report will be used for future work under Cluster 12 (Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to draw advantage from opportunities offered by the emerging MTS).

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation process for "*How to Approach Banks*" to be undertaken by EPC. Joint publication agreement signed and modalities are being discussed at present with the national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

United Republic of Tanzania

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Fully funded by CTF Window II: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands and United Kingdom

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1 - Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

Implementation plan for 1998-1999 adopted by National Steering Committee (Joint Field mission in June 1998). Revision underway to cover January - December 1999; National Facilitator being identified.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs and Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

No requests for technical assistance were received regarding implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement and the adaptation of laws and regulations. WTO continues to provide, on a regular basis, documentation on customs matters to the Customs Administration in Tanzania.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC) (focal point). For a reference centre geared to the business community needs were assessed and installation is underway at the Board of External Trade (BET). Equipment and standard MTS documentation are being delivered; arrangements are already underway to procure equipment for the establishment of the Reference Centre for academic use at the College of Business Education in Dar es Salaam.

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 6 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1997). The participants came from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC), BET, the Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ZCCIA), the University of Dar es Salaam, and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). A National training and information dissemination programme for 1999 is expected to be submitted in due course by Tanzania.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study is currently being undertaken.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

A draft report on a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods has been submitted to BET which is expected to review it and provide comments on it. The report will be used for future work under Cluster 12 (Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to take advantage from opportunities offered by the emerging MTS).

Cluster 13 - Trade secrets, the Export Answer book for SMEs

Adaptation process of “*Trade Secrets, the Export Answer Book*” to be undertaken by BET. Joint publication agreement signed. Modalities for preparing and publishing the guide now being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation process for “*How to Approach Banks*” to be undertaken by BET. Joint publication agreement signed and modalities are being discussed at present with the national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

Uganda

Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme in Selected LDCs and other African Countries ITC/UNCTAD/WTO (JITAP).

Fully funded by CTF Window II: Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland

Progress to date by cluster is as under:

Cluster 1 - Integrated programme management and headquarters based technical inputs

Implementation plan for 1998-1999 adopted by National Steering Committee (Joint Field mission in May-June 1998). Revision underway to cover January-December 1999; Regional Coordinator, Chief Technical Adviser posted in Kampala. He has assumed the role of National Facilitator for Uganda and will supervise the National facilitators in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Cluster 2 - Support to MTS institutions

Terms of reference have been provided by UNCTAD for the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) to follow-up WTO agreements, and coordinate MTS issues. Detailed draft work plans and terms of reference for the technical working groups of the IIC are expected from the focal point that will indicate specific areas of technical support required from UNCTAD.

Cluster 3 - Assistance to customs

No request for technical assistance was received regarding implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement. However, WTO remains ready to provide assistance. WTO continues to provide, on a regular basis, documentation on customs matters to customs administrations of the country.

Cluster 4 - Contribution to the adjustment of trade laws and regulations

The WTO Secretariat has received from Uganda specific requests for technical assistance concerning the implementation of WTO Agreements. WTO maintains close contacts with the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI) and the Uganda Law Reform Commission. Technical issues in implementation have been brought to the attention of the Canadian authorities, whose cooperation has been sought by Uganda.

Cluster 5 - Reference Centres

A reference centre for official use was set up in 1997 at the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI). For the second reference centre geared to the business community needs were assessed and installation is underway at the Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB), equipment and standard MTS documentation being delivered; arrangements are already underway to procure equipment for the establishment of the Reference Centre for academic use at the Makerere University in Kampala.

Cluster 8 - Human resource development and improvement of MTS knowledge

A group of 6 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1997). The participants came from the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI), the Uganda Management Institute (UMI), the Management Training and Advisory Centre (MTAC), the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). A national training and information dissemination programme for 1999 is expected to be submitted in due course by Uganda.

Cluster 9 - MTS impact on national economy and external trade and trade policy adaptation

MTS Impact study is currently being undertaken.

Cluster 11 - Assessment of export and market potentials

Draft report on a Product-Market matrix of exportable goods submitted to UEPB which is expected to review it and provide comments. The report will be used for future work under Cluster 12 (Formulation of sectoral/product specific strategies to take advantage from opportunities offered by the emerging MTS).

Cluster 13 - Quality management in MTS context and export packaging

Adaptation process for "*Trade Secrets, the Export Answer Book*" to be undertaken by UEPB. Joint publication agreement signed. Modalities for preparing and publishing the guide now being discussed with the national counterpart.

Cluster 14 - Export financing

Adaptation process for "*How to Approach Banks*" to be undertaken by UEPB. Joint publication agreement signed and modalities are being discussed at present with the national counterpart.

Cluster 15 - National Enquiry Points, quality management and export packaging in MTS context

Preparations are being made in consultation with the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the setting up and strengthening of the National Enquiry Point (NEP). Technical documentation and equipment for the NEP are being procured.

Tunisia

Fully funded by: UNDP; Tunisia; CTF Window-1.

Apart from documentation provided to the Reference centre, additional documents, including some in electronic form, were made available to the Inter-Institutional Committee (IIC) in Tunisia. Specific institutions have been added, at their request, to the WTO mailing list and they receive its technical publications free of charge.

A Reference Centre for official use was set up in 1998 to the focal point at the Ministère du Commerce. A second Reference centre geared to the business community is expected to be established at the Centre de Promotion des Exportations (CEPEX).

A number of seminars were organized to cover the following themes: TBT, SPS, quality management and export packaging; export promotion and development; textile and clothing; and agriculture. The export potential study has been finalized. Assistance was provided in trade information services by establishing a mechanism for analyzing the country's main export trends. Formulation of export strategies for five identified sectors is underway.

A group of 4 trainers, presenters and experts has been trained in Geneva (November - December 1998). The participants came from the Ministère du Commerce (MC), la Faculté de Droit de Sfax, and la Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion de Tunis. A National training and information dissemination programme is expected to be submitted, designed and in due course by Tunisia.

ATTACHMENT III

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

I: NATIONAL SEMINARS: 41

AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
4 1 Congo, Dem. Rep. 19-23 January DD, ERAD	National Seminar: (Follow-up to HLM)	0 1 Myanmar 19-21 January TCD, TED	WTO and the multilateral trading system	4 1 Bulgaria 7-8 April TEXD, IPID	Workshop: Notification requirements; government procurement	4 1 Haiti 26-30 January TCD, MACC	Implementation of obligations; renegotiations under Art.XXVIII; WTO Agreements; assessment of legislation (Follow-up to HLM)	0 2 Kuwait 2-3 May TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system
0 2 Rwanda 18-20 February ERAD	Specialized seminar on exports promotion	0 1 India 29-30 January TCD	GATS	4 1 Cyprus 2-5 June TCD; TSD	WTO and the multilateral trading system	4 1 Costa Rica 19-20 February TED	TBT	0 1 Qatar 27-28 October TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system
4 1 Mozambique 14-16 October TCD	National seminar: WTO and the multilateral trading system (Follow-up to HLM)	0 1 Indonesia 19-20 February TCD, LEGD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices	0 3 Croatia 18-19 June IPD	Intellectual Property	4 1 Bolivia 15-17 April TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system	0 1 Bahrain 10-11 November TED	TBT, trade and environment
4 1 Malawi 19-22 October TCD, LEGD	National workshop: WTO and the multilateral trading system (Follow-up to HLM)	0 3 Chinese Taipei 16-18 March TCD	National workshop: Multilateral trading system in the past and future – 50 years of GATT and future prospects for WTO	0 2 Bulgaria 24-26 June IPID	Enforcement of intellectual property rights (WIPO)	4 1 Guatemala 20-24 April TCD, SISD	WTO and the multilateral trading system; integrated data base presentation	0 1 Bahrain 22-25 November TSD	WTO and the multilateral trading system: subsidies and customs valuation, basic telecomm., services, TPRM
0 3 Mauritius 23-24 October TSD	GATS and the WTO	0 1 Cambodia 23-27 March TCD, DD	WTO and the multilateral trading system (Follow-up to HLM)	0 1 Belarus 30 June-1 July TSD	Trade in services, schedules on commitments in services	0 2 Belize 27-28 April TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system		
				0 1 Turkey 30 June-3 July TCD, LEGD	Dispute settlement				

- 0 – Activities without a reference code in the Three-Year Plan
1 – Activities fully organized by WTO
2 – Activities organized by WTO and other institutions
3 – Activities where WTO was invited
4 – Activities with a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
0 1 Sudan 30 Nov.-2 Dec. TCD	Multilateral trading system (Follow-up to HLM)	4 1 Viet Nam 27-29 April TSD	Services	0 3 Albania 13-14 July TSD	GATS	0 2 Brazil 4-7 May IPID	Intellectual property		
0 2 Mauritania 7-13 December TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system (Follow-up to HLM)	0 3 Sri Lanka 19-21 August TCD, TSD, Consultant	WTO Agreements			0 3 Ecuador 29 July TSD	Financial services		
		0 3 China 21-22 September TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system; China's agricultural trade			0 2 Suriname 20-21 August TCD, EXRD	WTO and the multilateral trading system		
		0 3 Lao, People's Democratic Republic 16-17 November EXTRD, TSD	Trade in Services (Follow-up to HLM)			0 3 Brazil 24-25 September IPID	Intellectual property		
		0 3 Myanmar 19-20 November EXTRD, TSD	Trade in services			0 3 Jamaica 14-16 October IPD	WIPO Symposium on Intellectual Property for the Judiciary		
						4 1 Bolivia 9-11 November TSD	GATS		
						0 1 Suriname 16-20 November MACCD	Customs valuation		
						0 3 Brazil 10-11 December IPD	TRIPS for the General Counsel's Office of the National Patent Office		

- 0 – Activities without a reference code in the Three-Year Plan
1 – Activities fully organized by WTO
2 – Activities organized by WTO and other institutions
3 – Activities where WTO was invited
4 – Activities with a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

II: REGIONAL SEMINARS: 71

AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
0 3 Egypt 11-12 February IPID	Conference on international procurement rules	4 2 Singapore 12-27 January LEGD, TED, IPID, TSD, MACCD, RD, TEXTD, AGD	Dispute settlement, TBT, investment and competition policy, services, tariffs – Article VIII – QRs – export measures, customs valuation, rules of origin, licensing, PSI, TRIPs, subsidies and customs valuation measures, textiles, agriculture and SPS, trade and environment	0 3 Slovak Republic 23-24 April IPD	Intellectual Property	0 3 Dominica 19-21 January TCD	Impact of trade liberalization on the manufacturing/export sector of the OECS (7 countries)	0 3 UAE 15-16 February TSD	Symposium: Arab Regional Forum
4 2 Botswana 3-7 March TCD, AGD, DD	Brainstorming on regional integration in SADC countries. Joint trade policy seminar for SADC countries (World Bank and WTO)	4 1 Indonesia 16-18 February TCD, LEGD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices for 23 Asian developing countries	4 1 Malta 27-28 May TCD, TEXTD	Textiles for 8 selected Mediterranean countries	4 3 Uruguay 18 February LEGD	FTAA working group on dispute settlement	4 3 Lebanon 23-24 April ACCD	High-Level Meeting for Ministers/Senior Arab officials
0 3 Botswana 16-18 March ERAD	Economic Committee meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa	4 2 Hong Kong, China 23-27 March TCD, TSD, RD	Multilateral trading system for Asian developing countries	4 2 Turkey 7-9 July TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system for Black Sea Economic Council (11 countries)	0 3 Mexico 30 March-1 April TCD, TSD	Services negotiations	0 2 Bahrain 25-27 April TCD	Competition law and policy (Follow-up seminar for Arab countries not invited to the Cairo seminar)
				0 3 France 8 September IPD	Intellectual Property for Developing Countries				

- 0 – Activities without a reference code in the Three-Year Plan
1 – Activities fully organized by WTO
2 – Activities organized by WTO and other institutions
3 – Activities where WTO was invited
4 – Activities with a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
				4 1 Czech Republic 30 Sept.-2 Oct. TCD, TED	Trade and environment for Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries (16)				
4 2 Cameroon 31 Mar.-4 April TCD, DD	Joint trade policy regional seminar for UDEAC (World Bank and WTO)	0 2 Philippines 24-25 March TCD	International business round table on UR Agreements			4 1 Netherlands 30 Mar.-1 April TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system	0 3 Saudi Arabia 29-30 April ACCD	WTO Agreements and accessions
4 3 Egypt 21-23 April IPID	Competition law and policy	4 1 Australia 27 April-1 May IPID	TRIPs Agreement for Asian and Pacific area LDCs (16 countries)			4 3 Guatemala 27 April-6 May TED	Regional trade agreements and the WTO; TBT Agreement for Central American countries	0 3 Jordan 12-15 July AGD, TED	TBT and SPS
0 1 Mali 11-13 May IPID	TRIPs Agreement (with WIPO) (Follow-up to HLM)	0 1 Myanmar 27-29 May TSD	GATS, market access for ASEAN countries			4 2 Colombia 4-6 May RD	Subsidies' disciplines for Andean community (MERCOSUR)	0 3 Syria 30 Aug.-1 Sept. TCD	Policies and methods for promotion of non-traditional exports of IDB member countries
0 3 Egypt 8-11 June TCD	Conference on trade and development for League of Arab States (22 countries)	4 1 Thailand 1-4 June RD	Advanced anti-dumping – trade remedies and competition (procedures) ADB programme			0 3 Guyana 6-8 May AGD	SPS Agreement for CARICOM countries	0 3 Saudi Arabia 14 Sept.-4 Oct. TCD, TSD, IPID, LEGD	Three-week trade policy course for Arab-speaking IDB countries (20)
4 1 Namibia 15-18 June TCD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices for 23 English-speaking African countries	4 1 Malaysia 9-11 June TCD, TED	Trade and environment for Asian developing countries (26 countries invited)			4 2 USA 2-19 June TCD, TBT, SD, LEGD	Regional assistance project for English-speaking 3-week course (Latin American countries)	0 3 Bahrain 29 November – 1 December IPD	Intellectual Property for countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council
4 1 Zambia 16-18 June MACCD, TCD, SISD, ITC	Market access and textiles for English-speaking African LDCs (Follow-up to HLM)	0 3 Fiji 11-13 June AGD	Ministerial Conference on sugar			0 3 Bahamas 8-9 June MACCD	Customs matters for Caribbean States		

0 – Activities without a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

1 – Activities fully organized by WTO

2 – Activities organized by WTO and other institutions

3 – Activities where WTO was invited

4 – Activities with a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
4 2 Egypt 27-28 June TED	Trade and environment and development for Arab countries, with ISO and ITC	4 2 Malaysia 13-16 June SISD	Integrated data base for APEC member economies (18 countries)			0 3 USA 11-13 June IPID	Intellectual property rights and agriculture		
0 3 Gabon 8-9 July IPID	Training session on competition: trade policy, competition policy, investment promotion (UDEAC)	0 3 Sri Lanka 15-18 June TCD, LEGD	Legal implementation of WTO Agreements			4 2 USA 29 June-17 July TCD, TEXTD	Regional assistance project: Spanish- speaking 3-week course (Latin American countries)		
4 3 Tanzania 20-24 July TCD, LEGD	Legal Implementation of WTO Agreements for African English- speaking LDCs (organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat)	4 2 Philippines 30 June-3 July AGD	SPS Agreement (13 countries)			4 1 Venezuela 29 June-2 July TCD, LEGD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices for 18 Latin American countries		
0 3 Egypt 26-28 September TSD	Electronic commerce for Arab countries	0 3 Bangladesh 3-7 August TCD, Consultant	Seminar for 13 English-speaking LDCs in Asia and Pacific region (Follow- up to HLM)			4 1 Trinidad and Tobago 6-8 July TED	Trade and environment for Caribbean countries (13 countries)		
4 2 Djibouti 28 Sept.-2 Oct. TCD, MACCD, SISD, TSD	Trade policy seminar for 21 French-speaking LDCs (Follow-up to HLM)	0 3 Thailand 3-4 August TCD	Trade policy: Multilateralism and the Asia- Pacific region (6 countries)			4 2 Trinidad and Tobago 20-24 July MACCD, SISD	Market access issues, tariff schedules, Harmonized System nomenclature and customs valuation for CARICOM		

- 0 – Activities without a reference code in the Three-Year Plan
1 – Activities fully organized by WTO
2 – Activities organized by WTO and other institutions
3 – Activities where WTO was invited
4 – Activities with a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
4 1 Côte d'Ivoire 2-4 November TCD	Trade and environment for 20 French- speaking African countries	4 1 Thailand 24-28 August RD	Advanced anti- dumping – trade remedies and competition (procedures) ADB programme			4 2 Costa Rica 10-14 August MACCD, SISD	Tariff schedules, customs valuation, Harmonized System nomenclature (9 countries)		
0 3 Egypt 8-9 November TED	Regional workshop: role of regional metrology organizations in supporting world trade needs	0 3 New Zealand 31 Aug.-5 Sept. AGD	WTO Agreement on Agriculture for South Pacific region			0 2 Argentina 26-28 August TSD	Services (MERCOSUR and Chile)		
4 3 Zimbabwe 23-26 Nov. AGD	Agricultural policy of African countries and the multilateral trading system	0 3 Malaysia 7-8 September IPID	Competition policy (APEC)			4 1 Chile 31 Aug.-4 Sept. TCD, TED	Trade and environment for Latin American countries		
		0 1 Singapore 29-30 October LEGD, TCD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices for 12 Asian Pacific countries			4 3 Argentina 7-8 September IPID	Government procurement transparency (OAS)		
		0 1 Thailand 9-12 November RD	WTO subsidies for South and South-East Asian WTO Members			4 2 Guatemala 21-24 Sept. RD	Subsidy disciplines seminar for Central American countries (10 countries)		
						0 1 Barbados 9-12 November LEGD, TCD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices for 13 Caribbean countries		

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COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
						0 3 Panama 25-26 Nov. TSD	International services economy for Rio group of Latin America		
						0 3 Colombia 30 Nov.-1 Dec. IPID	Government procurement for the group of three and the Andean pact countries		

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III: TECHNICAL MISSIONS: 90

AFRICA			ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT		COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
0 1 Rwanda 12-16 January TCD, ERAD	Needs assessment: WTO and the multilateral trading system (Follow-up to HLM)		0 1 Chinese Taipei 8-11 March TSD	Schedule of specific commitments on services – basic telecomm.	0 1 Moldova 28-31 January IPID	Enforcement of industrial property rights	4 1 Haiti 20-21 April TCD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)	0 1 Oman 9-10 February MACCD	Harmonized System, customs valuation
4 1 Congo, Democratic Rep. 29-30 January IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)		4 1 Mongolia 30 March-1 April TCD, MACCD	Harmonized System, tariff schedules and notification requirements	4 1 Turkey 9-13 February RD	Anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations	0 3 USA 5 May DD	Integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance for LDCs (WB executive board meeting)	4 1 Oman 25-27 April ACCD	Accession
4 1 Rwanda 2-3 February IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)		4 1 Vanuatu 23 April ACCD	Accession	0 1 Latvia 2 April RD	Workshop on anti-dumping and safeguards	0 1 Venezuela 3-7 August RD	Anti-dumping	0 1 Israel 29 June-1 July RD	Anti-dumping, countervailing duties' calculations
0 1 Morocco 3-5 February TCD, IMRD	Preparation for WTO training centre set-up		4 1 Pakistan 27-29 April MACCD	Harmonized System 96 and tariff schedules	0 3 Croatia 1-3 June ACCD	Accession	4 1 Guatemala 17-18 August MACCD	Tariff schedule: list of concessions, transposition to Harmonized System	4 1 Bahrain 21-23 Sept. SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – presentation of WTO and computer Website

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COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT
4 1	Central African Republic 5-6 February IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	0 2	China 4-8 May TSD	Training programme on trade in services	0 1	Malta 12-15 October MACCD	Customs valuation	4 1	Honduras 19-20 August MACCD	Technical mission: list of concessions, transposition to Harmonized System	0 1	Oman 1-4 November WCO	Accession
0 1	Niger 9-13 February TSD	GATS and specific commitments (Follow-up to HLM)	0 3	Hong Kong, China 4 June IPD	Intellectual Property	0 2	Switzerland 21-22 October TCD	Colloquium: round table on Chad with UNDP	0 3	Canada 23-28 August AGD	Protocol on biosafety negotiations	0 1	Bahrain 7-9 November MACCD	Harmonized System, tariff concessions, schedules, customs valuation
4 1	Togo 9-10 February SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	4 1	Bangladesh 13-14 July IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	0 1	Andorra 16-17 November ACCD	Accession	0 1	Venezuela 14-15 September DD	Regional Agreements and WTO rules			
			4 1	Myanmar 16-17 July IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)									

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COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT
4 1	Guinea-Bissau 10-11 February IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)	4 1	Maldives 20-21 July IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)	0 1	Armenia 30 November MACCD	Market access	0 2	Haiti 21-23 Sept. TCD	Preparation for round table on Haiti (Follow-up to HLM)			
4 1	Guinea 11-12 February IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)	0 2	Bangladesh 8-10 August TCD	Follow-up to regional seminar (Follow-up to HLM)				0 1	Paraguay 28 Sept.-2 Oct. TPRD	Customs valuation			
4 1	Djibouti 16-17 February IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)	0 2	New Zealand 31 Aug.-4 Sept. LEGD	Dispute settlement				0 1	Peru 14-16 October TPRD	Customs valuation			

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COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
4 1 Mali 16-17 February SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	0 3 India 27-29 September TSD	Telecomm.			0 1 Colombia 19-21 October TCD	Customs valuation		
4 1 Zambia 2-6 March TCD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	4 1 Solomon Islands 19-20 October TCD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)			0 1 Colombia 19-23 October TDD	Assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Trade on documentation systems and on- line legal research projects		
4 1 Chad 9-10 March SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	0 1 Sri Lanka 20-23 October MACCD + Consultant	Customs valuation						

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COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT
4 1	Egypt 9-11 March TED	TBT	4 1	Vanuatu 22-23 October TCD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)									
0 2	Ethiopia 9-11 March IPID	Trade and investment, government procurement (Follow-up to HLM)	4 1	Bhutan 2-3 November TCD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)									
4 1	Niger 12-13 March SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)	4 1	Nepal 5-6 November TCD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)									

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COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
4 1 Mauritania 16-17 March SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	0 1 Lao, People's Dem. Rep. 15-17 November ACCD	Accession						
0 1 Namibia 23-27 March TCD	Specific WTO Agreements	4 1 Lao, People's Dem. Rep. 10-11 December TDD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)						
4 1 Mozambique 20-21 April TCD, TDD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)	4 1 Cambodia 14-15 December TDD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)						

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4 1	Malawi 23-24 April TCD, TDD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)												
4 1	Tunisia 11-15 May MACCD	Customs valuation, tariff schedules, rules or origin												
0 2	Kenya 26-29 May TCD	Implementation of Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries (JITAP)												
0 2	Uganda 1-3 June TCD	Implementation of Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries (JITAP) (Follow- up to HLM)												
0 1	Morocco 3-4 June MACCD	Customs valuation for customs and private sector												

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0 1	Mauritius 8-9 June MACCD	Technical mission: preparation of schedule for information technology products												
0 1	Seychelles 9-12 June ACCD	Accession, finalization of documentation												
4 1	Angola 22-23 June SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)												
4 2	Côte d'Ivoire 24-26 June TCD, TED	Implementation of Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries (JITAP)												
4 1	Burundi 25-26 June SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow-up to HLM)												

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COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE		SUBJECT
4 2	Burkina Faso 29-30 June TCD	Implementation of Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries (JITAP) (Follow- up to HLM)												
4 2	Benin 2-3 July TCD	Implementation of Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African Countries (JITAP) (Follow- up to HLM)												
0 1	Kenya 21-23 Sept. TCD, Consultant	Customs valuation												
4 1	Madagascar 24-25 Sept. SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)												
0 1	Madagascar 5-7 October TCD, TSD, IPID, LEGD	Legislation adjustment, (Follow-up to HLM)												

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COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
0 1 Mauritius 26-27 October MACCD	Customs valuation								
4 1 Cape Verde 9-10 November SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)								
4 1 Gambia 12-13 Nov. SISD, IMRD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)								
4 1 Kenya 12-13 Nov. IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website								

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4 1	Namibia 16-17 Nov. IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website												
0 1	Morocco 26 November WCO	Rules of origin												
4 1	Ethiopia 30 Nov.-1 Dec. IMRD, SISD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (Follow- up to HLM)												
0 1	Ghana 30 Nov.-4 Dec. TCD	Implementation of WTO Agreements												
0 1	Tunisia 1-3 December IMRD, TCD	Establishment of a WTO Reference Centre – connecting LDCs; presentation of WTO and computer Website (JITAP)												
4 1	Senegal 2-4 December SISD	Training on WTO Reference Centre												

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IV: WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, ROUND TABLES, TRAINING COURSES:
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AFRICA			ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT		COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
0 1 Morocco 4-6 February MACCD	Customs valuation		4 1 China 9-13 February RD	Workshop: AC/CVD investigations for Chinese government officials	0 3 Russian Federation 2-3 February TSD	Symposium: telecomm. and GATS	0 2 USA 28 Jan. TCD, DD	Colloquium: inter-agency meeting on LDCs follow-up	0 2 Saudi Arabia 7-8 February TCD	Workshop: consultation with IDB on training courses for its member states
4 1 Djibouti 8-12 February TCD, TSD	Trade policy, services (Follow-up to HLM)		0 3 Philippines 19-21 February TSD	Conference on telecomm.	0 1 Switzerland 2-6 February RD	HLM for Vice-Ministers of trade and integration of country members of Andean community	0 3 Colombia 1-3 February TSD	Symposium: iberoamerican regulatory organizations meeting: "El futuro del comercio de las telecomunicaciones"	4 1 UAE 8-11 March TCD	Training course: trade negotiations skills
4 1 Mauritius 8-11 February AGD, LEGD	Agriculture, dispute settlement		0 2 Chinese Taipei 1-4 March RD	Conference on antidumping	0 3 Poland 9-11 February IPD	Conference: enforcement for customs officers	0 2 USA 9-10 February TCD, IMRD	Meeting with the Economic Development Institute on joint seminar and training; ITD WEB site	4 3 UAE 29-30 March ERAD	Symposium on effects of globalization and international world trade liberalization agreements on small/medium industries in Arab countries
4 1 Equatorial Guinea 16-20 February TCD	Participation in the seminar on the impact of trade liberalization on the manufacturing/export sector of the OECS (Follow-up to HLM)		0 2 Malaysia 30-31 March TCD, TED	Regional conference: international business round table on UR Agreements; implications for tech.-based exporters	0 1 Switzerland 10-13 February TCD	Training course on dispute settlement (5 LDCs)	0 3 USA 26-27 February IPD	Conference: meeting with World Bank – IADB seminar on 'efficiency and transparency in public sector procurement'	0 3 UAE 27 April TCD	WTO and developing countries: opportunities and challenges

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0 2	Zimbabwe 13-15 March ERAD	Conference: macro economic and Financial Management Institute for Eastern and Southern Africa	0 3	Singapore 31 March TSD	Symposium: professional services and the GATS	0 3	France 16-17 February TCD	Conference on WTO and the multilateral trading system	0 3	USA 13-16 April SISD	Colloquium: collection and codification on non-tariff measures with ALADI, SIECA and UNCTAD	0 2	Lebanon 2-4 July TEXD	Regional workshop WTO Agreements on textiles and implications on the trade of developing countries
0 3	Zimbabwe 6-7 April TCD, IMRD	Conference: represent WTO at the preparatory meeting of OAU/African Economic Community Member States for the 2 nd WTO Ministerial Conference	0 3	Hong Kong, China 1-3 June IPD	Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights for Asian countries	0 3	Switzerland 19-20 February TCD	Colloquium: brainstorming for preparation of Arab countries for the WTO Ministerial Conference	0 3	USA 14-17 April ERAD	Colloquium: attend board meeting of the Joint Vienna Institute and also meeting of the design committee of the JVI	0 1	UAE 31 Oct.-2Nov. TSD	Conference on WTO and the globalisation of Middle-East enterprise summit
4 2	Chad 14-17 April TCD, DD	National workshop: session on notifications (Follow-up to HLM)	4 3	India 15-16 July IPD	Symposium: international investment arrangements and their implications for developing countries	0 2	Italy 26 February TCD, EXTRD	Meeting with UN Staff College on training and technical cooperation activities	0 3	Barbados 7-8 May DD	Conference ACP/EU Council for Ministers	0 1	Palestine 3-9 Nov. EXTRD	Training course: commercial diplomacy for Palestinian authority officials
0 1	Botswana 29 April-1 May TSD	GATS and telecomm.	4 1	Thailand 20-24 July LEGD	Advanced training course on dispute settlement	4 2	Switzerland 26-27 February TCD, IPD, ERAD	First symposium on investment for Geneva-based delegates	0 3	Brazil 25-29 May IPD	Conference with AIPPI (Int'l Ass. for the Protection of Intell. Property)	0 3	Lebanon 17-19 Nov. TSD	GATS and maritime transport, future negotiations
4 2	South Africa 3-7 May IMRD	Conference (ITU-WB): information technologies for development – WEB	0 3	Singapore 9-10 Nov. TSD	Conference: bank competition policy and corporate governance	0 1	Switzerland 9-10 March MACCD	Symposium on trade facilitation	0 3	USA 4-6 June DD, TCD	Integrated framework for LDCs; Inter-agency meeting			
			0 3	India 17-18 Nov. LEGD	WTO dispute settlement									

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0 1 Tunisia 5-6 May TED	National symposium on environment	0 3 India 29 Nov.-1 Dec. DDG	Conference: 1998 India Economic Summit	4 1 Switzerland 20 April-8 May TCD	Trade-policy course for 24 English-speaking LDCs (follow-up to HLM)	0 3 USA 22-26 June TCD	Colloquium: campus on international trade (UTA/UNITAR)		
4 1 South Africa 19-20 June TCD	Dispute settlement procedures and practices	0 3 China 8-9 Dec. TSD	Service Trade: China and the World	0 3 Belgium 12-15 May TCD	Briefing Session for 71 ACP Countries on Ministerial Meeting	0 3 Bahamas 28 June-4 July TSD	Conference on Telecomm. and Information Technology (with CTU)		
0 3 Egypt 29-30 June TED	Trade and environment	0 3 India 10-11 Dec. DD	Special and differential treatment	0 1 Switzerland 21 May-3 July TCD, AGD, MACCD, ACCD	8 th Special Training Course: accession to WTO for Eastern and Central European and Central Asian countries	0 3 Honduras 16-17 July AGD	Regional Symposium for Latin America and Caribbean exporters of sugar		
0 1 Ethiopia 17-20 August TCD	WTO and Multilateral Trade Agreements (Follow-up to HLM)			0 3 Poland 7-9 May TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system (organised by Maastricht University)	0 3 Mexico 24-26 August IPD	Colloquium: TRIPs (Int'l Association for Advancement of Teaching & Research in Intellectual Property)		
0 1 Namibia 24-28 August TCD, Consultant	Trade negotiations simulation			0 3 Spain 28-29 May TSD	Conference: reforms of the financial systems in Latin America (SELA)	0 3 Chile 28-29 Sept. TSD	Liberalization of international trade		

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4 2 Tunisia 20-22 October TEXTD	Symposium: Agreement on Textiles and Clothing			4 2 Switzerland 8-9 June IPD	Second Symposium on investment for Geneva-based delegates	0 3 USA 28 September TCD	Conference: Eighth annual Ministerial Meeting of LDCs at the UN (Follow-up to HLM)		
0 3 Tunisia 21-22 October IMRD	Symposium: partnership for information and communications technologies in Africa meeting			0 3 Austria 9-11 June ERAD	Symposium: Joint Vienna Institute Board Meeting	0 3 Mexico 29 Sept.-1 Oct. TSD	Conference: liberalization and prudential regulation for developing countries		
0 3 Botswana 25-27 October DD	Conference: transformation of international trade and investment arrangements			0 3 Norway 11 June TCD	Conference on WTO and the multilateral trading system (Central office of agriculture cooperative)	0 3 USA 30 Sept.-2 Oct. TSD	Conference: global telecomm. market		
0 3 Burkina Faso 31 Oct-2 Nov. TCD	Conference: second African- Arab business week			0 1 Switzerland 26 June TCD	Forum de Crans- Montana (with DDG)	0 3 Chile 19-22 October RD	Conference: trade promotion organization		
0 3 South Africa 9-16 November TCD, UNCTAD, ITC	Conference: 'Meet in Africa': Leather Trade Fair			0 3 Russia 29 June – 1 July IPD	Intellectual Property for the CIS countries	0 3 Barbados 9-10 Nov. TSD	Conference: GATS and telecomm.		
0 3 Egypt 15-16 Nov. TCD, DD	WTO and the Multilateral Trade Agreements, recent trends			0 3 Netherlands 13-16 July TCD	Colloquium: introduction to the WTO and the multilateral trading system; fellowship programme in international law (UN/UNITAR)	0 3 Argentina 10-13 Nov. TED	Conference: convention on climate change		
				4 2 Switzerland 25 July IPD	Second symposium on competition policy for Geneva-based				

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AFRICA		ASIA/PACIFIC		EUROPE		NORTH/LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST	
COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
0 2 Tunisia 26-27 Nov. TCD	Agriculture			0 3 Switzerland 28-30 July MACCD	Preshipment inspection services for Commonwealth developing countries	0 3 Venezuela 23-27 Nov. TCD	Congress of international law; consultation with the Metropolitan University on regional trade course		
0 3 Botswana 30 Nov-4 Dec. TCD, AGD	Agriculture and SPS			0 1 Switzerland 14-15 Sept. TED	Technical barriers to trade workshop of procedures for information exchange for committee members (26+11 countries)	0 3 Uruguay 2-4 December TSD	Cooperative business and commerce: the human face of the economy		
0 3 Uganda 7 December TCD	Trade-related consultative group meeting- Integrated Framework for LDCs			0 2 Switzerland 14-18 Sept. TCD	Joint (symposium) meeting with SIECA on software development for the Integrated Data Base	0 2 USA 6-12 December SISD	Data entry for the IDB; discussion to create a joint trade analysis data base on agricultural products		
0 1 Egypt 7-10 December LEGD	Dispute settlement rules and procedures			0 2 Switzerland 16 September IPD	Joint symposium on the process of implementation of the TRIPs Agreement (WIPO)				
0 2 Morocco 9-12 December AGD	Workshop: Agreement on Agriculture: preparation for the next trade negotiations			0 2 Switzerland 5-9 October TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system: WTO segment of the training course for Chinese officials:				

0 – Activities without a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

1 – Activities fully organized by WTO

2 – Activities organized by WTO and other institutions

3 – Activities where WTO was invited

4 – Activities with a reference code in the Three-Year Plan

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COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
				4 1	Italy 5-23 October TCD, MACCD, SISD, TEXTD, AGD, TED, TSD, LEGD, ERAD, TPRD		Short Trade Policy Course for French-speaking LDCs (Follow-up to HLM)		
				0 3	Austria 10-13 October ERAD		Symposium: Joint Vienna Institute Board Meeting		
				0 1	Switzerland 6-9 October TCD		12 th Special Training Course on the WTO dispute settlement procedures and practices (4 LDCs)		
				0 1	Switzerland 19-20 October TCD		Inter-agency working group (Follow-up to HLM)		
				0 3	Turkey 2-4 November TCD		Symposium: fourteenth session of Stabbing Committee for economic and commercial cooperation		
				0 3	France 23-24 Nov. TCD		Colloquium: capacity at OECD development for trade (Integrated Framework for LDCs)		

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COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT	COUNTRY AND DATE	SUBJECT
				0 3	France 24 November TCD	WTO and the multilateral trading system			
				4 2	France 24-27 Nov. TED	TBT seminar for African French- speaking countries			
				0 3	Austria 2-4 December ERAD	Training course: trade and exchange rate policies			
				4 2	Switzerland 7-11 December TCD	Training of trainers: Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso			
				0 3	Austria 14-15 Dec. ERAD	Symposium: Joint Vienna Institute Board Meeting			

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