

**Working Group on the Relationship
between Trade and Investment**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 21
OF THE DOHA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

Note by the Secretariat



I. INTRODUCTION

1. Paragraph 21 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration recognizes the needs of developing and least-developed countries for enhanced support for technical assistance and capacity building in the area of the Relationship between Trade and Investment, including policy analysis and development so that they may better evaluate the implications of closer multilateral cooperation for their development policies and objectives, and human and institutional development. It commits the WTO to work in cooperation with other relevant intergovernmental organisations, including UNCTAD, and through appropriate regional and bilateral channels, to provide strengthened and adequately resourced assistance to respond to these needs.

2. In responding to this mandate, and following informal consultations in the Working Group in January and February 2002, the Secretariat drew up a plan of technical assistance activities for 2002, to be undertaken in cooperation with UNCTAD. The plan was circulated in WT/COMTD/W/95/Rev.3. The Secretariat has reported at each meeting of the Working Group on its implementation of technical assistance activities. This Note provides further information for delegations on progress in fulfilling the mandate contained in Paragraph 21 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

**II. ORGANISATION OF ACTIVITIES AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

3. The plan of technical assistance activities on the Relationship between Trade and Investment contained in WT/COMTD/W/95/Rev.3 was drawn up on the basis of requests from individual WTO Members for technical assistance, of informal consultations in the Working Group, of consultations in the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, and of collaboration with UNCTAD to identify how joint WTO/UNCTAD activities could most effectively and efficiently respond to the needs identified by Members and to the mandate contained in Paragraph 21 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. This plan of joint technical assistance activities with UNCTAD was included in the UNCTAD Secretary-General's Report on "Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries, especially LDCs, and Economies in Transition in Support of their Participation in WTO Doha Work Programme" (UNCTAD/RMS/TCS of 1 February 2002).

4. In collaboration with UNCTAD, the Secretariat has offered four types of joint technical assistance activity in 2002:

- **Technical workshops** for Geneva-based delegations and officials visiting from capitals, scheduled to coincide with meetings of the Working Group and designed to help delegations to follow and participate effectively in the work of the Working Group under Paragraph 22 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.
- **Regional seminars** designed to assist capital-based officials to follow the work of the Working Group under Paragraph 22 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, and to undertake policy analysis and development so that they may better evaluate the implications of closer multilateral cooperation in the area of the Relationship between Trade and Investment for their development policies and objectives.
- **National seminars** for Member countries that request technical assistance in this area for a large number of capital-based officials, and whose need cannot be satisfied through Geneva-based or regional activities.
- **Training courses** for negotiators of international investment agreements. This is a well-established UNCTAD activity. Since the beginning of 2002, a section of each training course has been devoted to the issues listed in Paragraph 22 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration with a view to responding to the needs of WTO Members for human development (training) of officials in this area.

5. On this basis, the plan of activities contained in WT/COMTD/W/95/Rev.3 was drawn up and circulated to delegations. The WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats undertook follow-up contacts with delegations to confirm or amend the planned activities. In light of those contacts, the list of activities that has been carried out jointly with UNCTAD to date, and that is scheduled for the remainder of this year, is contained in the Annex to this Note. Priority has been given to meeting the needs of least-developed country Members.

6. All WTO technical assistance activities in this area have been planned and carried out jointly with UNCTAD. It was expected that the activities would be undertaken on a cost-sharing basis with UNCTAD (approximately 50-50). Thanks to generous financial and logistical support from other intergovernmental organisations with which the WTO Secretariat is collaborating, notably the Inter-American Development Bank, from individual WTO Members for certain specific technical assistance activities, and from the WTO's Global Trust Fund, no difficulties have been encountered by the WTO Secretariat in meeting its commitments. However, the UNCTAD Secretariat has encountered financial constraints, and has brought these to the attention of the Working Group as well as the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. Nonetheless, it is anticipated that the remaining technical assistance activities scheduled for 2002 will be carried out as planned.

III. PROGRAMME FOR 2003

7. On the basis of requests received from WTO Members, and bearing in mind the need to give priority to regional activities where possible in the interest of using scarce resources efficiently, the Secretariat has drawn up a tentative list of technical assistance activities in this area to be carried out jointly with UNCTAD in 2003. In addition to UNCTAD, the Secretariat will continue to collaborate with other relevant intergovernmental organisations. The list is based on the same four types of activity undertaken in 2002, and it includes regional activities for African, Asian, Caribbean, Central and Eastern European, Latin American and Middle-Eastern countries, a certain number of national seminars, and workshops for Geneva-based delegates and officials visiting from capitals. Priority will continue to be given to meeting the needs of least-developed country Members. The list will be

included in the overall programme of WTO technical assistance activities for 2003 and circulated to delegations in due course.

IV. ASSESSMENT

8. The WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats carry out assessments of each technical assistance activity based on written comments by participants, and adjust the programme of future events in light of the comments made. By and large, the response of participants to the activities carried out to date has been positive. The activities have been viewed as relevant and useful to the responsibilities of participating officials, and as having been carried out competently and effectively by the WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats. Nonetheless, two issues have been flagged consistently: the duration of the seminars and workshops is considered insufficient to cover the ground in detail, and requests have been made for more references to specific regional and national experience with foreign investment and international investment agreements. Efforts are being made to address these two issues.

9. From the point of view of the WTO Secretariat, one of the main challenges that has emerged in satisfying the needs of participants is the fact that, given the nature of the subject-matter, participating officials come from a range of different government department other than the Ministry of Trade (e.g., Central Banks, Ministries of Finance, Commerce, and Industry, and Investment Promotion Agencies) and many of them have very little familiarity with the WTO and its Agreements. Efforts are being made to address this issue too.

ANNEX 1

Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building Activities for 2002 and Provisional List of Activities Scheduled Tentatively for 2003

Topics	Doha TC/CB Mandate	Activity	Cooperation with	Dates	Venue
Intensive Training Course for English-speaking Africa	21, 22	Training Course	UNCTAD	18-29 March 2002	South Africa (Pretoria)
Regional Seminar for Asia	21, 22	Regional Seminar	UNCTAD/Singapore	6-8 May 2002	Singapore
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Workshop	UNCTAD	13-14 May 2002	China (Beijing)
OECD Technical Workshop	21, 22	Technical Workshop	OECD	15-20 May 2002	Hong Kong, China
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	UNCTAD	16 May 2002	Indonesia
APEC Workshop on Regional and Bilateral Investment Rules/Agreements	21, 22	Technical Workshop	APEC	17-18 May 2002	Mexico (Mérida)
Intensive Training Course for French-speaking Africa	21, 22	Training Course	UNCTAD/Agence de la Francophonie	27 May-6 June 2002	Egypt (Alexandria)
Regional Seminar for French-speaking Africa	21, 22	Regional Seminar	UNCTAD	19-21 June 2002	Gabon (Libreville)
Regional Policy Seminar	21, 22	Regional Seminar	Thailand	27 June 2002	Thailand (Bangkok)
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	Thailand	28 June 2002	Thailand (Bangkok)
Training for Geneva Delegations/Officials visiting from capitals, coinciding with WGTI meeting	21, 22	Technical Workshop	UNCTAD	2 July 2002	Switzerland (Geneva)

Topics	Doha TC/CB Mandate	Activity	Cooperation with	Dates	Venue
Regional Seminar for Central America	21, 22	Regional Seminar	UNCTAD / IDB	12-13 August 2002	Costa Rica (San José)
Training for Geneva Delegations/Officials visiting from capitals, coinciding with WGTI meeting	21, 22	Technical Workshop (French)	UNCTAD	13 September 2002	Switzerland (Geneva)
Regional seminar for South America and Intensive Training Course for Latin America	21, 22	Training Course	UNCTAD / IDB	October 2002	Peru (Lima)
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	UNCTAD	October 2002	Colombia (Bogota)
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	UNCTAD	October 2002	Venezuela
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	UNCTAD	October 2002	Guatemala
Training for Geneva Delegations/Officials visiting from capitals, coinciding with WGTI meeting	21, 22	Technical Workshop (Spanish)	UNCTAD	13 November 2002	Switzerland (Geneva)
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	UNCTAD	November 2002	Sri Lanka
Intensive Training Course for Asia and the Pacific	21, 22	Training Course	UNCTAD	Nov/Dec 2002	India (New Delhi)
Regional Seminar for English-speaking Africa	21, 22	Regional Seminar	UNCTAD	November 2002	Botswana (Gaborone)
Trade and Investment	21, 22	National Seminar	UNCTAD	17-19 December	Tunisia