

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OUTLINES FOR A DATABASE AND TASK FORCE TO ENHANCE DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

### Submission by Egypt

1. The workshop on Technical assistance (TA) held on April 2003 has shown the substantial level of interest that Members have with respect to operationalizing the delivery of TA activities through targeted and well designed programmes. The workshop has also highlighted the different needs and priorities of developing countries in TBT related TA. While trying to find possible means for effective assistance, the workshop was able to present many ideas, one of which was the idea to establish information database, and the other was to have a TASK FORCE to take over (through the TBT committee) the responsibility of ensuring that TA is; targeted, sequenced and better coordinated. Egypt is interested in these ideas and would offer hereafter, some thought on their operation.

#### A. THE CALL FOR A SINGLE TBT-TA RELATED DATABASE

2. Following a request from Members, the Secretariat has ably put together a valuable document (G/TBT/W/207) outlining the existing databases on TBT-related TA. Egypt has examined the paper and found it constitutes an excellent source of information regarding TA in the area of TBT. The paper has also shown that many sources of TA are already out there. However, Egypt is of the view that it might be difficult to figure out the exact state of affairs regarding technical assistance activities that are being provided worldwide. The Secretariat's document could as well, be expanded to include more information regarding TA donors.

3. Egypt knows that ITC offers technical assistance related to TBT especially with respect to export quality management. Other international (World Bank), regional (African Bank for development) institutions also do have programmes of the kind, and as such, would deserve reference in the Secretariat's note. To have clue regarding those activities, Egypt would therefore, propose that the Chairman of the TBT Committee communicates with relevant international and regional organization requesting detailed information regarding their activities (as may relate to the TBT Agreement). Donor Members shall also be encouraged to bring to the attention of the Committee their technical assistance programmes planned for the next few years.

4. Having this done, the Committee could elaborate future steps towards the construction of a single database which objectives should be:

- (i) to bring together the needs of developing countries Members (as outlined in their individual replies to the questionnaire), and the TBT/TA related programmes already available in international or regional organizations, as well as those that donor Members are ready to offer,

- (ii) to assist beneficiary Members in identifying the probable source(s) of a particular TA programme,
- (iii) to assist donor Members in improving the quality of their programmes , and
- (iv) to avoid duplication of or overlap between TA activities offered by different donors.

**B. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE (TERMS OF REFERENCE )**

Once this proposed database is constructed, a **TASK FORCE** should be established with the following (proposed) Terms of Reference (ToR):

**1. Participation**

- (i) The task force shall be composed of Members from both donor and beneficiary countries, Members shall represent different geographic regions and economic conditions (the Secretariat's compendium of the responses to the questionnaires Document G/TBT/W/193 could be used for this purpose),
- (ii) Membership shall be open for relevant international organizations (UNIDO, ISO, ITC, WTO, as well as other potential donors).

**2. Mandate**

- (i) To co-operate with beneficiary country's experts in identifying areas of priorities to them (several Developing countries have not replied to the questionnaire, and as such may need assistance from the task force to fill in the questionnaire);
- (ii) to match individual country needs and available TA programmes;
- (iii) whenever possible, and if so requested by a beneficiary country, assist in raising the necessary funding for a given programme; and
- (iv) set implementation plan for every technical assistance programme, as well as a follow-up mechanism to measure and correct deviations.

**3. Follow-up mechanism**

5. The Committee may have to consider the establishment of a follow-up mechanism with the following parameters:

- (i) The preparation of a provisional report on; the needs of the country concerned, available sources of TA, estimated funding, objective of the programme, time frame, etc...,
- (ii) the report shall then be sent to all interested parties (all WTO Members) through the TBT Secretariat for the proper feedback,

- (iii) initialling the programme in the country concerned, which may decide to have a local team to follow on the proceedings of the technical assistance programme and report periodically to the task force and subsequently to the Committee,
- (iv) in case of deviations from the plan, the task force shall provide the Committee with the recommended corrective actions for consideration and approval; and
- (v) the beneficiary country and the donor shall immediately put such recommendations into force.

#### **4. Financing the task force' activities**

6. One major problem, that the Committee has to address and find a solution for, is with respect to financing the task force's activities; this could be a stumbling block that would threaten our making progress in this regard. However, Egypt would propose that the Committee considers the possibility of drawing on the resources of the Global Trust Fund. We would also call upon donor Members and international organizations to agree on the establishment of a fund for that purpose.

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