

GUIDELINES FOR WTO TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Adopted by the Committee on Trade and Development on 15 October 1996

Bearing in mind the Marrakesh Declaration of 15 April 1994 and the Decision on Measures in Favour of Least-Developed Countries, WTO Technical Cooperation is to be provided in conformity with the principles set out below:

I. OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

- Assist in the full integration of beneficiaries into the multilateral trading system and contribute to the expansion of their trade;
- Strengthen and enhance institutional and human capacities in the public sector for an appropriate participation in the multilateral trading system; whenever possible and in consultation with the government concerned, capacity building activities could include representatives of the private sector;
- Be demand-driven and adapted to recipient needs, in particular with respect to the best suited modes of delivery;
- Be complementary to and supportive of recipients' efforts to identify their own requirements;
- Keep a geographical balance, while giving priority to least-developed countries, in particular African countries, and to low-income economies;
- Cover subject matters within the competence and expertise of the WTO, in particular:
 - To improve knowledge of multilateral trade rules and WTO working procedures and negotiations; and
 - To assist in the implementation of commitments in the multilateral trading system and full use of its provisions, including the effective use of the dispute settlement mechanism;
- Be fully and closely coordinated with other assistance provided by multilateral and bilateral institutions;
- Be administered by the Secretariat and reviewed by Members, in accordance with operational directives and implementation modalities to be established by the Committee on Trade and Development.

II. OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES

1. Modes of Delivery

- The modes of delivery shall be chosen to fit both the requirements of the recipient country and technical cooperation programmes;
- Modes of delivery shall be assessed in the light of principles and directives to be agreed upon by the Committee on Trade and Development and on the progress in devising new means for an efficient dissemination of knowledge;
- Modes of delivery shall be elaborated with the aim of:
 - Extending assistance on as broad and cost-effective a basis as possible, e.g.:
 - Training courses of a regional or linguistic format;
 - Development of information and training material, in particular with the help of technology based aids;
 - Emphasizing in-depth and concrete training on WTO matters such as:
 - Specialized technical seminars and workshops of a regional or linguistic format;
 - Practical training programmes.

2. Long-Term Engagement

- Follow-up of individual programmes and assessment of their effectiveness;
- Development of training capabilities with particular emphasis on the training of local trainers, the use of local or regional technical expertise, and the establishment of links with academic and research institutions.

3. International Coordination

a) International and Regional Institutions Dealing with Trade-Related Matters

- Close institutional dialogue with other international organizations, in particular with ITC and UNCTAD, and with other regional institutions to ensure a coherent approach, to identify areas of competence and complementarity, to define and execute joint projects and avoid duplication;
- Dissemination of information on the WTO technical cooperation programmes, and establishment with other relevant organizations of a central inventory of programmes.

b) Bilateral Development Assistance in Trade-Related Matters

- Exchange of information with donor and recipient governments, including participation in bilateral programmes.

4. Management

a) Transparency

- Three year plan adjusted on an annual basis, including budgetary implications, to be approved by the Committee on Trade and Development and to be submitted to the appropriate bodies of WTO, according to agreed procedures and decisions of the General Council;
- Annual Secretariat reporting on programme implementation, and financial report;
- *Ad hoc* Secretariat status reports.

b) Funding

- Regular Budget of the WTO, within the limits specifically assigned by Members;
- WTO Trust Fund for technical cooperation: Voluntary contributions by Members and international financial institutions;
- International or national cost-sharing, whenever appropriate.

c) Monitoring and Evaluation

- By the Committee on Trade and Development based on annual evaluation of the results of technical assistance activities in order to ensure optimum use of resources according to appropriate evaluation criteria;
- The WTO Trust Fund shall be managed according to the recommendations contained in the decision taken by the General Council of 18 July 1996 (WT/GC/M/13) and to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules in documents WT/L/156 and WT/L/157 of 5 August 1996.