

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries
Sixth (Special) Session

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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication from the Permanent Mission of Canada was distributed in the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries on 18 April 1997.

High-Level Meeting/Critical Path

Supply of Trade-related Technical Assistance

Demand for Trade-related Technical Assistance

Immediately

Letters sent to all relevant multilateral, regional institutions, and donor governments, asking them to submit background papers outlining nature, amount, and beneficiaries of trade-related technical assistance, as well to outline from their perspective key elements of more integrated approach to provision of trade-related technical assistance. OECD DAC Secretariat to be requested to provide outline of differing approaches to the provision of trade-related technical assistance its members undertake: **30 May**

WTO/World Bank to coordinate compilation of trade-related technical assistance needs of, on priority basis, least-developed countries already Members of WTO, followed by non-WTO Members. Technical assistance to assess needs to be provided on an as needed/requested basis.

Preliminary needs assessments **due 30 May**; small number of countries more advanced in needs assessment chosen as representative for workshop round table.

Papers on market access (WTO lead) and investment (UNCTAD lead) begun **due 30 May**.

2-21 June

Co-organizing institutions compile and distribute background papers and annotated agenda.

26-27 June or early July

Preparatory intergovernmental workshop; experts from regional and multilateral institutions, trade ministries and aid agencies to attend. Round tables provide learning experience to refine further the needs assessments of all least-developed countries involved in the high-level conference. Gaps

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and overlap/duplication identified in supply of trade-related technical assistance, and first discussion on key elements of integrated provision of technical assistance takes place. Papers on market access and investment/role of private sector also available for these workshop sessions.

30 September

Final, refined needs assessments of all participating least-developed countries distributed to all "suppliers" of technical assistance. Development of final proposals fostering integrated approach to improving trading opportunities of least-developed countries.

20-21 October¹

High-Level Meeting.

¹The Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries subsequently agreed to hold the High-Level Meeting on 27-28 October 1997 (WT/COMTD/LLDC/M/6).