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**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**Third Session**  
**Seattle, 30 November - 3 December 1999**

**THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON INTEGRATED INITIATIVES FOR  
LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' TRADE DEVELOPMENT**

Report by the Director-General on Follow-up to the High-Level Meeting

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries' Trade Development<sup>1</sup> (the High-Level Meeting), held at the WTO in Geneva on 27-28 October 1997, was aimed to boost efforts to further the integration of the least-developed countries into the multilateral trading system.<sup>2</sup> This report seeks to trace progress made since the High-Level Meeting. In the report, I focus on five main areas: market access for least-developed countries, the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance (IF), accession to the WTO, WTO trade policy reviews for least-developed countries, and WTO information technology for development projects.

2. A previous report was given by the Director-General to the Geneva Ministerial Conference.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The High-Level Meeting was held pursuant to the mandate contained in the Singapore Ministerial Declaration in which Ministers stated that:

- "We remain concerned by the problems of the least-developed countries and have agreed to:  
a Plan of Action, including provision for taking positive measures, for example duty-free access, on an autonomous basis, aimed at improving their overall capacity to respond to the opportunities offered by the trading system;
- seek to give operational content to the Plan of Action, for example, by enhancing conditions for investment and providing predictable and favourable market access conditions for LLDCs' products, to foster the expansion and diversification of their exports to the markets of all developed countries; and in the case of relevant developing countries in the context of the Global System of Trade Preferences;
- organize a meeting with UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre as soon as possible in 1997, with the participation of aid agencies, multilateral financial institutions and least-developed countries to foster an integrated approach to assisting these countries in enhancing their trading opportunities."

<sup>2</sup> The Report of the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries' Trade Development is contained in document WT/LDC/HL/23. Notes on the proceedings of the High-Level Meeting are contained in documents WT/LDC/HL/M/1 and Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> WT/MIN(98)/2 of 28 April 1998.

## II. MARKET ACCESS

3. One of the aims of the High-Level Meeting was to encourage increased market access for the products originating in the least-developed countries. At the High-Level Meeting, WTO Members were therefore invited to announce steps they had taken, or would be taking, on an autonomous basis to enhance market access for imports from least-developed countries.<sup>4</sup> A number of developed and developing Members made such announcements,<sup>5</sup> and since the High-Level Meeting, the WTO Secretariat has received seven communications relating to market access for least-developed country exports.<sup>6</sup>

4. Some developing Members were concerned about the existence of a legal basis under which they could grant preferences to products originating in least-developing countries. Following consultations, a draft "umbrella" waiver from GATT Article I was adopted by the General Council on 15 June 1999.<sup>7</sup> However, no new notifications of increased market access for products originating in the least-developed countries have been made since.

5. The issue of market access for least-developed countries is currently under consideration in the preparatory mechanism for the Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle. Least-developed countries as a group account for only some 0.5 per cent of world trade. Removing barriers from their trade would pose no serious threat to any WTO Member and I would sincerely hope that this initiative can be adopted at Seattle.

6. Market access on its own, however, is only one part of the picture. Least-developed country delegations have repeatedly stressed the serious constraints they face on supply capacity and therefore the need for assurance in capacity building. The Integrated Framework (Section III of this report) is intended to provide a framework in which such assistance can be provided.

## III. THE INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

7. The 1997 High-Level Meeting endorsed the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance, Including for Human and Institutional Capacity-Building, to support Least-Developed Countries in Their Trade and Trade-Related Activities<sup>8</sup> (Integrated Framework or IF). The six core Agencies in the IF are the IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank and the WTO.

### A. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8. The Integrated Framework, as endorsed by the HLM, "seeks to increase the benefits that least-developed countries derive from the trade-related technical assistance available to them from the six Agencies involved in designing this Framework, as well as from other multilateral, regional and

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<sup>4</sup> Members were also invited to notify the details of the announced market access improvements to the secretariats of WTO and UNCTAD as soon as possible.

<sup>5</sup> These were: the European Communities, Morocco, United States, Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Singapore, India, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, Malaysia, Egypt and Turkey are recorded in the Note on the Meeting (WT/LDC/HL/M/1).

<sup>6</sup> These notifications have been made by Turkey (WT/COMTD/W/39), the European Communities (WT/COMTD/W/41), Switzerland (WT/COMTD/W/44), Canada (WT/COMTD/LDC/M/11, paragraph 16) and Egypt (WT/COMTD/W/47 plus Add.1) Mauritius (document WT/COMTD/W/53) and the United States (WT/COMTD/N/1/Add. 2). These notifications vary greatly in scope and coverage.

<sup>7</sup> Contained in document WT/L/304.

<sup>8</sup> Contained in document WT/LDC/HL/1/Rev.1.

bilateral sources, with a view to assisting them to enhance their trade opportunities, to respond to market demands and to integrate into the multilateral trading system".<sup>9</sup>

9. As defined by the Integrated Framework document, the Framework aims to:

- (i) Ensure that trade-related technical assistance activities are demand-driven by the least-developed countries and meet their individual needs effectively. Account can thereby be taken of differences in levels of development and economic structure, and physical characteristics such as location (e.g. land-locked, island) and other factors which influence the supply response to market signals and policy initiatives. The individual country level will normally be the locus of activities conducted under the Integrated Framework, although if considered appropriate the locus can be established at the regional or sub-regional level;
- (ii) Enhance ownership by each least-developed country over the trade-related technical assistance activities being provided. This is a key feature of the Framework. Responsibility for the coordination of implementation and monitoring of activities under the Integrated Framework at the country level will lie primarily with the least-developed country concerned;
- (iii) Enable each agency involved to increase its efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of trade-related technical assistance activities. The Framework will permit each agency to design and tailor its individual efforts to meet the needs of least-developed countries in the light of full information about the specific needs of each country and about current and projected activities being undertaken by other agencies in the area of trade-related technical assistance. It will allow the trade-related technical assistance activities of all the agencies to be properly coordinated, sequenced and synchronized;
- (iv) Keep under review trade-related technical assistance activities in individual least-developed countries, evaluate periodically their success in meeting the country's needs, review how those needs change, and adapt the programme of activities accordingly;
- (v) Provide comprehensive information about the specific needs of each least-developed country and about the trade-related technical assistance activities of the six agencies involved to other relevant multilateral and regional intergovernmental organisations, to bilateral development partners and to the private sector.

B. STEPS AND PROCEDURES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

10. Although the IF has been structured on the basis of eight steps,<sup>10</sup> in practice five main steps are involved. These are:

- (a) Country needs assessments prepared by individual LDCs;

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<sup>9</sup> WT/LDC/HL/1/Rev.1.

<sup>10</sup> These eight steps are: (i) Needs assessment by individual LDCs; (ii) Integrated responses by the six core Agencies; (iii) Country Specific Round Table Meetings; (iv) Coordination amongst the six Agencies involved; (v) Financing; (vi) Implementation and Monitoring; (vii) Review and Evaluation of Country Programmes; and, (viii) Maintenance and publication of a core inventory. (WT/LDC/HL/1/Rev.1, paragraph5).

- (b) Integrated responses by the six core Agencies: IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank, and WTO;
- (c) Preparation of a multi-year country programme and the holding of a Round Table meeting;
- (d) Implementation and monitoring of trade-related technical assistance activities; and
- (e) Regular evaluation by the staff of the six core Agencies and officials of the least-developed countries.

### C. DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR<sup>11</sup>

11. To date, 40 out of 48 least-developed countries have completed needs assessments to the six core agencies. The six agencies have formulated integrated responses to all needs assessments reviewed. The formulation of integrated responses is intended to ensure that the agency with expertise in the delivery of a certain type of trade-related technical assistance actually carries out the activity, that overlap and duplication are avoided and that the sequence of activities is the most effective one. About 15 per cent of the 2000 activities in the integrated responses relate to joint activities by two or more of the six core agencies.<sup>12</sup>

12. Currently, following the preparation of the integrated responses, some 20 least-developed countries have expressed an interest in organizing a Trade-Related Round Table meeting involving the six agencies and other multilateral and bilateral development partners. In preparing for Round-Tables, one agency is normally designated by the least-developed country as "lead-agency". In most cases this has been either the UNDP or the World Bank, reflecting their presence in the countries concerned and their experience in organizing donor meetings. Where necessary, national and/or international consultants have been appointed to assist the Government in preparing the Round Table. The Round Table is intended to give the least-developed country Government an opportunity to explain the role of trade in its overall development strategy and to present its priorities for trade-related technical assistance; to persuade potential donors of the trade-related technical assistance needs of the least-developed country; and to seek commitments to finance the activities mentioned.

13. Four Round Tables will have been held by the time of the Seattle Ministerial Conference: with Uganda, Tanzania, Haiti and The Gambia.<sup>13</sup> Based on the initial experience with the Uganda Round Table and on suggestions by Members, a number of measures were taken to facilitate the preparatory process. Two documents were elaborated to assist other least-developed countries in

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<sup>11</sup> See attached table on "Status of Implementation of the Integrated Framework".

<sup>12</sup> An indicative list of joint activities being carried out under the Integrated Responses include, work on modernization-computerization of customs systems by IMF, UNCTAD and UNDP; World Bank-WTO Joint Regional Seminars on the multilateral trading system and how to use trade as a tool for development; the design and implementation of projects by ITC, UNCTAD, and WTO under the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP) in four African LDCs; technical assistance activities for accession to the WTO by UNCTAD and UNDP; WTO national seminars in LDCs with the participation of ITC, UNCTAD and UNDP; joint ITC and UNCTAD Programming Missions and joint ITC/UNCTAD implementation of UNDP-funded projects. Some of the joint entries are implemented together with other development partners of the LDCs such as WIPO, UNIDO and the FAO; and export diversification projects by the World Bank with the participation of other agencies and bilateral donors.

<sup>13</sup> Uganda, 11 December 1998; Tanzania, 14 October 1999; Haiti, 11-12 November 1999; and The Gambia, 23-24 November 1999. The Governments of Bangladesh and Ethiopia have also finalized its documentation and requested the six agencies to assist it in finding an appropriate date for the holding of a roundtable.

preparing for Round Table meetings.<sup>14</sup> Launch-workshops to kick-start the preparatory process and ensure a commitment from all stakeholders, including the numerous least-developed country ministries, private sector etc., international organizations and bilateral donors were organized by some least-developed countries.<sup>15</sup> Informal pre-Round Table Meetings were held for The Gambia, Haiti and Tanzania in Geneva. These were attended by representatives from Geneva Missions and representatives from the core and other agencies.<sup>16</sup> At these meetings, government representative explained to their potential donors their priority projects, exchanged views on the policy setting and sought indications of pledges.

14. In other least-developed countries, the six core agencies are in the process of implementing activities that do not require additional funding: i.e. the large majority of activities mentioned by the agencies in their integrated responses. Almost 50 per cent of the 2,000 entries by the six agencies in the integrated responses, have been completed or are in advanced stages of completion. This and other relevant information about the Integrated Framework is available on the website (<http://www.ldcs.org>) of the joint Administrative Unit for the Integrated Framework, which is located in the International Trade Centre.

#### D. CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

15. The process of implementing the Integrated Framework has been a valuable learning process for all parties involved. In particular, the importance of the least-developed countries' ownership of the process and the coordination of trade-related technical assistance activities in the least-developed countries amongst the six core agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and donors have been stressed. To this end, a number of intergovernmental organizations, regional and bilateral development partners have expressed interest in working with the least-developed countries and the six core agencies in the Integrated Framework.<sup>17</sup>

16. There has been criticism relating to the expectation of certain LDC governments and international organizations that the Integrated Framework would bring additional funding. It should be recalled that, when Members endorsed the Integrated Framework at the High-Level Meeting for Least-Developed Countries in 1997, no additional resources were envisaged for its implementation. The six agencies were asked to implement the Integrated Framework by using efficiency gains from coordinating existing projects and possible re-prioritization. However, funding of the preparatory process and of programmes under the IF remains a live issue.

17. Criticism has been raised that the process has been slow and bureaucratic. Coordination is often difficult, as the Integrated Framework, aims at coordinating 48 least-developed countries, the six core agencies, other multilateral partners, and the bilateral donor community. Coordination has proven to be a particular challenge within the least-developed countries where a large number of ministries and other government agencies might be involved as well as the private sector and local non-governmental organizations. Coordination within some of the agencies and donors has also

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<sup>14</sup> An outline document and an indicative timetable are both contained under document symbol WT/COMTD/LDC/W/15.

<sup>15</sup> Bangladesh, Djibouti, The Gambia, Haiti, Tanzania, and Zambia.

<sup>16</sup> Guinea, Mali and Togo also called such meetings informally in connection with their Trade Policy Reviews.

<sup>17</sup> Based on information provided to the Administrative Unit, 12 multilateral partners have identified a focal point to liaise and coordinate with other concerned parties involved in the Integrated Framework. These multilateral partners are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Forum Secretariat, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Standards Organization (ISO), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

sometimes proven more difficult than expected as has coordination among all the stakeholders. However, even though the process has been slow, these coordination problems seem to be gradually being overcome.

18. Least-developed countries have criticised the Integrated Framework for not living up to their expectation that, in its implementation, it should address supply-side constraints and physical infrastructural requirements as well as trade-related capacity and institution building. The suggestion has also been made that the existing questionnaire for needs assessments should be reviewed in light of the responsibility of the least-developed countries to prioritize projects in the preparation of their multi-year programmes.

19. Trade-related issues may be one among many concerns in development and poverty reduction programmes pursued by least-developed country Governments and major international agencies. The Integrated Framework has contributed to raising the profile and understanding of the multi-faceted role of trade in development, both at governmental and international level.

20. Some of the achievements of the Integrated Framework are not easily quantified. Improved communication among the various ministries involved in trade-related matters within the least-developed countries is an achievement which should lead to more efficient and coherent trade-policies and contribute to the process of institution building in these countries. Ministries involved in trade and aid agencies in donor countries have also improved their coordination, which could lead to more efficient assistance in the area of trade to least-developed countries. Not least, trade issues are being mainstreamed into the work of the major development agencies assisting least-developed countries. These elements are apparent in the Round Table meetings now taking place under UNDP and World Bank auspices.

21. The WTO Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries has provided an ongoing forum for an exchange of views on concerns and challenges in the implementation of the Integrated Framework. At the 17th Session of the Sub-Committee, it was understood that the concerns expressed and the challenges that confronted the Integrated Framework would be examined within the context of the review of the Integrated Framework pursuant to Paragraph 6 of the Integrated Framework document,<sup>18</sup> due to be initiated early in 2000. This review will involve the views of the six core agencies, least-developed countries and other development partners. A number of proposals have been made by the Agencies involved in the IF. These proposals will be considered in the coming months.

#### **IV. ACCESSION TO THE WTO**

22. The High-Level Meeting recommended the WTO to develop efforts to assist least-developed countries in the process of accession. Currently there are seven least-developed country applicants engaged in the accession process under Article XII of the WTO Agreement. These are Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Samoa, Sudan and Vanuatu. Of these, the most advanced in the accession process is Vanuatu, whose Working Party Report and the Schedules of Concessions and Commitments in Goods and Services are in the process of finalization. Cambodia, Nepal and Sudan have circulated their Memoranda on the Foreign Trade Regime. Their accession processes may be expected to proceed during 2000. Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Yemen, which are also Observers to the WTO, have not yet requested accession under Article XII procedures.

23. Within existing financial and human resource constraints, the Secretariat has been providing special and focused technical assistance to these countries, particularly in the area of developing basic WTO-related legislation, and the training of officials, to reduce the number of Working Party meetings to a minimum and to ensure that those held are as productive as possible. However, in

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<sup>18</sup> WT/LDC/HL/1/Rev.1.

preparation for Seattle, least-developed country representatives have repeatedly referred to the burdensome nature of the accession process and the need to its acceleration.

## **V. TRADE POLICY REVIEWS**

24. A second recommendation from the High-Level Meeting directly related to the work of the WTO was for the WTO to accommodate on a priority basis requests from least-developed countries for Trade Policy Reviews and assist least-developed countries in preparing for their reviews. The Trade Policy Review Body's Report to the Singapore Ministerial Conference also suggested that greater attention be paid to the coverage of least developed countries in the TPRB programme.

25. By the end of 1999, the TPRM will have conducted 120 reviews (113 if grouped reviews are counted as single reviews) since its formation. The reviews have covered 71 Members, counting the European Communities (EC) as one. Ten reviews of least-developed countries have been held since 1989,<sup>19</sup> and seven since the Singapore Ministerial Conference. Currently, the programme of reviews for the year 2000 includes two least-developed countries, Bangladesh and Tanzania. More Trade Policy Reviews could take place with additional funding.

26. Trade Policy Reviews of least-developed countries have been useful in understanding the trade policy structure in place and its relationship with the WTO Agreements. The reviews have also provided technical assistance to the relevant Members, especially in enhancing their understanding of the WTO Agreements and enabling better compliance; in some cases, better interaction between government agencies has been facilitated by the reviews. The wide coverage of the Secretariat reports also enables Members to recognize any shortcomings in policy and to identify specific areas where further technical assistance may be required.

27. The WTO Secretariat has provided special support to least-developed countries undergoing Trade Policy Reviews. Assistance has been given in explaining to least-developed country officials what should go into their reports while no assistance has been given in actually writing the report. The WTO has also provided the funding for two least-developed country officials to come to Geneva for the Trade Policy Reviews. In Geneva, the WTO Secretariat has provided the least-developed country officials with an officer and secretaries at the time of Trade Policy Reviews to assist them with, for example, the preparation of answers to questions.

## **VI. WTO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

28. WTO activities in favor of least-developed and developing countries have been aimed at enabling them to use information technologies to access WTO information and training. The plan developed following the High-Level Meeting contains four main areas of implementation. They are:

### **A. DEVELOPMENT OF WTO REFERENCE CENTRES**

29. The WTO has provided computer equipment, Internet connections and training for the established 68 WTO Reference Centres in 38 least-developed countries and 30 developing countries since October 1997. Trade and Commerce Ministries of these countries are using the Reference Centres to access WTO information and training materials through the Internet and on CD-ROM. The WTO provides technical support and advice to help the Reference Centres through a centralized Help Desk in Geneva which provides support and advice to deal with hardware and software and

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<sup>19</sup> The least-developed countries reviewed since the establishment of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism are: Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, the Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

coordinates responses from various WTO Divisions to ensure Reference Centres are able to overcome their difficulties to get back on-line.

30. The WTO has made available to Reference Centres a number of interactive training programs and a Y2K kit on CD-ROM to ensure that computers at Centres will not experience any difficulties in making the transition to the year 2000.

#### B. TRAINING

31. Training has remained the single most important priority identified by officials in least-developed countries and other developing countries so they can develop the skills needed to make effective use of the Internet and of CD-ROM training and information tools. About 1,500 trade officials in the Trade Ministries of least-developed countries and developing countries have received training over the last 18 months on how to access WTO on-line materials. The training ranges from that offered to beginners on using a PC and the Internet, to more advanced applications such as how to use the WTO Document Dissemination Facility or how to develop an ACCESS database. Training has been delivered in the capitals during the establishment of Centres. It has also been provided using the World Bank Global Learning Network. Training and evaluation sessions have been held in Geneva during which officials responsible for the operation of Reference Centres have also been able to provide feedback on how to improve the operations of these Reference Centres, sharing their experiences with colleagues from other countries and with WTO staff.

32. The Information Technology for Development project, a joint undertaking with the World Bank, has focused on developing and refining information and training tools for trade officials in least-developed countries and developing countries. The specific applications developed include:

- Print and digital versions of trilingual Guides on the WTO and on the WTO and developing countries. The Guides have been widely distributed within least-developed and developing countries. It is estimated that about 60,000 copies have been downloaded from the WTO Internet site over the past year.
- Computer-based training modules on CD-ROM. These consist of interactive training courses on multimedia CDs. The first two focused on the Textiles Agreement (3 hours of course material) and on a step-by-step approach to using WTO information and training. Both modules reside on a single CD which offers the choice of English, French and Spanish versions. New additions being made to this digital training library include modules on the SPS Agreement and Developing Countries, and on the TRIPS Agreement and Developing Countries.

#### C. JOINT INTERNET SITE WITH THE WORLD BANK

33. The joint Internet site with the World Bank, the Trade and Development Centre, has been enhanced with the addition of new case studies on least-developed and developing countries. The site also offers users access to a series of on-line fora organized with specialists at the World Bank, all oriented to the interests of LDC and developing countries. The most recent forum, on least-developed countries and the Seattle Ministerial Meeting, attracted 400 registered participants.

#### D. CD-ROM LIBRARY

34. This library of 11 CD-ROMs provides each Reference Centre with access to trilingual versions of the complete results of the Uruguay Round, Trade Policy Reviews, BISD series and other invaluable reference and information tools for trade officials.



# STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

COUNTRY	NEEDS ASSESSMENT	INTEGRATED RESPONSE <sup>20</sup>	CONSULTATIONS <sup>21</sup>	ROUND TABLE
Afghanistan				
Angola	WT/COMTD/IF/13 11.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/13 11.2.98		
Bangladesh	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.1 24.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/1	L.W : June 1999	
Benin	WT/COMTD/IF/14 and Add.1 12.2.98 and 4.3.98	WT/COMTD/IF/14 and Add.1 12.2.98 and 4.3.98		
Bhutan	WT/COMTD/IF/35 17.9.98	WT/COMTD/IF/35 17.9.98		
Burkina Faso	WT/COMTD/IF/24 15.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/24 15.4.98		
Burundi	WT/COMTD/IF/15 18.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/15 18.2.98		
Cambodia	WT/COMTD/IF/36 18.9.98	WT/COMTD/IF/36 18.9.98		
Cape Verde	WT/COMTD/IF/25 15.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/25 15.4.98		
Central African Rep.	WT/COMTD/IF/16 18.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/16 18.2.98		
Chad	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.2 24.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/2		
Comoros	WT/COMTD/IF/26 29.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/26 29.4..98		
Congo, Dem. Rep. of the	WT/COMTD/IF/17 17.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/17 17.2.98		
Djibouti	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.3 23.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/3	L.W : October 1999	
Equatorial Guinea	WT/COMTD/IF/18 3.3.98	WT/COMTD/IF/18 3.3.98		
Eritrea				

<sup>20</sup> The Needs Assessments and Integrated Responses of 12 LDCs were presented at the HLM on 27-28 October 1997, in document series WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.1-12. This information was re-issued as documents WT/COMTD/IF/1-12.

<sup>21</sup> Consultations refer to Informal pre-RT donor meetings held at the WTO or locally, launch workshops (L.W.) and consultations in the margin of the WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR).

# STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

COUNTRY	NEEDS ASSESSMENT	INTEGRATED RESPONSE <sup>20</sup>	CONSULTATIONS <sup>21</sup>	ROUND TABLE
Ethiopia	WT/COMTD/IF/19 26.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/19 26.2.98	Pre-RT : end November 1999	
Gambia	WT/COMTD/IF/20 26.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/20 26.2.98	L.W : First Semester 1999 Pre-RT : September 1999	Geneva, November 1999
Guinea	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.4 24.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/4	TPR : February 1999	
Guinea Bissau	WT/COMTD/IF/27 2.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/27 2.4.98		
Haiti	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.5 27.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/5	L.W : July 1999 Pre-RT : October 1999	Port-au-Prince, November 1999
Kiribati				
Laos	WT/COMTD/IF/28 27.3.98	WT/COMTD/IF/28 27.3.98		
Lesotho	WT/COMTD/IF/21 26.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/21 26.2.98		
Liberia				
Madagascar	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.6 24.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/6		
Malawi	WT/COMTD/IF/37 18.9.98	WT/COMTD/IF/37 18.9.98		
Maldives	WT/COMTD/IF/22 26.2.98	WT/COMTD/IF/22 26.2.98		
Mali	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.7 23.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/7	TPR : November 1998	
Mauritania	WT/COMTD/IF/23 3.3.98	WT/COMTD/IF/23 3.3.98		
Mozambique	WT/COMTD/IF/29 6.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/29 6.4.98		
Myanmar	WT/COMTD/IF/40 1.8.99	WT/COMTD/IF/40 1.8.99		
Nepal	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.8 24.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/8	L.W : (Bangladesh, June 99) <sup>22</sup>	

<sup>22</sup> A representative of the Government attended and participated in the launch workshop held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in June 1999.

# STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

COUNTRY	NEEDS ASSESSMENT	INTEGRATED RESPONSE <sup>20</sup>	CONSULTATIONS <sup>21</sup>	ROUND TABLE
Niger	WT/COMTD/IF/30 14.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/30 14.4.98		
Rwanda	WT/COMTD/IF/38 17.9.98	WT/COMTD/IF/38 17.9.98		
Samoa	WT/COMTD/IF/31 2.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/31 2.4.98		
Sao Tome & Principe	WT/COMTD/IF/39 21.9.98	WT/COMTD/IF/39 21.9.98		
Sierra Leone				
Solomon Islands	WT/COMTD/IF/32 2.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/32 2.4.98		
Somalia				
Sudan	WT/COMTD/IF/33 8.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/33 8.4.98		
Tanzania	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.9 27.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/9	L.W : August 1999 Pre-RT : October 1999	Dar es Salaam October 1999 <sup>23</sup>
Togo	WT/COMTD/IF/34 8.4.98	WT/COMTD/IF/34 8.4.98	TPR : January 1999	
Tuvalu				
Uganda	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.10 27.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/10		Kampala, December 1998
Vanuatu	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.11 27.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/11		
Yemen				
Zambia	WT/LDC/HL/12/Add.12 27.10.97	WT/COMTD/IF/12	L.W : October 1999	

<sup>23</sup> Expressions of interest/support noted at the meeting, formal pledging to be done at the next CG meeting in 2000.