

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Working Group on Transparency
in Government Procurement**

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Addendum

At its meeting of 22 June 1998, the Working Group agreed to request the Secretariat to provide information on the technical cooperation programmes of international and regional intergovernmental organizations in the area of government procurement, so as to enable the Group to have as complete a picture as possible of the availability of technical assistance in this field.

In consequence, the Secretariat wrote to relevant international and regional intergovernmental organizations requesting them to provide such information. The present document reproduces the information which has been received in response from the African Development Bank by means of a communication, dated 21 August 1998.

The Secretariat has been informed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by means of a communication, dated 27 August 1998, that the IMF is working on fiscal transparency and is advocating transparency in government procurement. However, the IMF does not have any work programme directly related to government procurement.

The African Development Bank intervenes in its regional member countries through providing loans and grants primarily in the public sector. The Bank in its activities applies its rules of procurement, which are devised to guarantee equity and transparency of the procurement activities. Transparency is an important principle in the Bank's procurement rules.

By its mandate, the Bank must monitor and supervise all procurement activities under its financing. The monitoring process is carried out through the following activities:

- (a) Procurement and Disbursement Workshop for the staff of the government who are directly involved in project implementation such as project implementation units and to the staff of the supervising line ministries. These workshops are conducted at least once every two years in the Bank's borrowing countries.
- (b) Launching missions for the start-up of projects are designed to train project implementation units on the processing of procurement activities.

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- (c) Internally in the Bank, there is a Procurement Review Committee, which is an independent body entrusted with handling complaints and issues of unfairness. This Committee provides a forum to the bidders to address their grievances in an independent and transparent manner.
 - (d) The ADB Procurement Rules contain clauses which deal with the issues of transparency and corruption during the procurement process as well as how bidders can file their grievances against unfairness. Bidders are free to send copies of their communications on issues and questions with the Borrower to the Bank or to write to the Bank directly, when Borrowers do not respond promptly, or the communication is a complaint against the Borrower.
 - (e) Finally, the Bank will organize, in Abidjan, during the period 30 November - 4 December 1998, a continent-wide conference on public procurement. Most of the 53 regional (African) member countries will be represented in the conference at the policy and the operational levels. The International Trade Center, the World Bank, UNDP and the African Development Bank sponsor the conference.
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