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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URUGUAY ROUND

Communication from the World Bank

The following communication dated 4 May 1988 received from the Special Representative of the World Bank to the United Nations Organizations in Geneva is circulated to the members of the Committee.

In order to fully participate in the Uruguay Round negotiations, many developing countries need to build up the capability to analyse negotiating issues. And, of course, they need the information to carry out such analysis. The Bank has repeatedly stated its willingness to make available to developing country negotiators and policy makers whatever expertise it has built up in its own trade policy analysis as well as the data it has compiled in the process. I am referring in particular to President Conable's statements at the Punta del Este Ministerial Meeting and at last July's UNCTAD VII Conference.

The Bank's technical assistance programme currently includes four components:

- (i) In November 1987 the Bank published "The Uruguay Round - A Handbook on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations". As the Uruguay Round proceeds and if the need arises, the Bank may issue a second edition. Suggestions from countries participating in the Uruguay Round on questions to be revisited and amplified and issues to be reviewed in addition to the earlier edition of the Handbook would be welcome.
- (ii) The Bank is compiling a world-wide inventory of research underway on issues bearing on the Uruguay Round which will be published as a World Bank Technical Paper in the coming weeks (see document COM.TD/W/455). It will be circulated to governments, their representatives in Geneva, and academic institutions. Another edition will be compiled and distributed in early 1989.
- (iii) The Bank has organised, or participated in, a series of workshops which have been designed to provide the economic underpinning to the resolution of trade policy issues under discussion in the Uruguay Round. Several more seminars, or the participation by the Bank in seminars organised by other agencies, are planned. Details are shown in the attachment.

- (iv) The Bank is developing, in cooperation with UNCTAD, a software programme to enable negotiators and policy makers to analyse market access problems. Specifically, the programme would allow to manipulate and analyse data on trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures. This software called SMART (for Software for Market Analysis and Restrictions on Trade) could run on personal computers with only a minimum of training. The tariff information would be drawn from the GATT Tariff Study for developed countries, and from UNCTAD sources for developing countries. The UNCTAD trade data base would also provide the information on non-tariff measures and trade flows. The Bank hopes that recent moves towards agreement on the creation of an integrated data base in GATT and on the release of data from the UNCTAD data base will remove any obstacles in the way to making the required data available for the use in the SMART software programme. While problems of data development and transfer remain to be resolved, we hope to be able to provide an informal preview of the programme in Geneva in mid-May.

Need for coordination. The Bank shares the view expressed by several members of the Trade and Development Committee that there is need for coordination of the various efforts to provide technical assistance in the Uruguay Round. In order to enhance transparency and to afford interested Contracting Parties the opportunity to avail themselves of the Bank's technical assistance services, we will periodically advise you on our plans and programmes for technical assistance as they evolve.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE URUGUAY ROUNDWORLD BANK PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

<u>Date/Venue</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Organizers</u>	<u>World Bank Participation/Remarks</u>
<u>Previous Events</u>			
30 Oct - 1 Nov 1986 Bangkok	Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Developing Country Interests	World Bank and Thailand Development Research Institute	For papers read see World Bank Economic Review September 1987 (Vol. 1 No. 4)
15-16 July 1987 Washington, D.C.	Developing Countries' Interests and International Transactions in Services	World Bank	For papers read see World Bank Economic Review (forthcoming issues)
10-12 January 1988 Montreux	Liberalizing World Trade in Agriculture	World Bank and Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN)	Papers prepared for seminar will be published
11-12 April 1988 Guatemala City	Accession to the GATT and Participation in the Uruguay Round	Secretaria Permanente del Tratado General de Integración Centro-americana (SIECA) and World Bank	Several Bank staff
25-28 April 1988 Nairobi	Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Countertrade for Commonwealth Africa	Commonwealth Secretariat, GATT, Government of Canada	Michael Finger, Principal Economist, International Trade Division
<u>Upcoming Events</u>			
9-13 May 1988 Geneva	Services Trade and Development: Towards a Framework	Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN)	Alan H. Gelb, Economist, Financial Policy and Systems Division
October 1988 Geneva	Non-Tariff Barriers, Subsidies and CVDs	Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN), UNCTAD, World Bank	To be determined
April 1989 Stockholm	Textiles and Clothing	Institute for International Economics, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), World Bank	To be determined