

**GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URUGUAY ROUND**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. The Committee on Trade and Development has periodically reviewed the technical cooperation programme of the GATT Secretariat. At its Seventy-Third Session in November 1992, the Committee reviewed the programme on the basis of document COM.TD/W/499.
2. The technical cooperation programme has been flexible and has been adjusted according to the priorities in different phases of the negotiations. In the last one year, the programme has mainly been focused on helping developing countries in the preparation of their offers on market access and services.
3. The following paragraphs give a brief description of technical assistance activities of the Secretariat since the Seventy-Third Session of the Committee.

**Data, Information and Background Notes**

4. Data on trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures needed for consultations and negotiations were made available, upon request, to delegations of developing countries. Information was also provided to help developing countries in assessing, with reference to their trade interests, other countries' offers in market access.
5. Upon request, factual background notes on specific issues in different areas of the negotiations were provided to delegations of developing countries. In this process, special attention was given to the technical assistance requirements of least-developed countries.

**Technical Missions and Seminars**

6. Some thirty-seven technical cooperation missions visited the capitals of developing countries, between October 1992 and October 1993, to assist officials in the preparation of their draft schedules of concessions and commitments on market access and offers of initial commitments on services. Particular attention was paid to helping least-developed countries and smaller developing countries in Africa.
7. The Technical Cooperation Division also organized a number of general seminars on the GATT and the Uruguay Round in different countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some of these seminars were addressed to countries contemplating accession to the GATT.

### Regional Workshops

8. A regional workshop on the Uruguay Round negotiations was organized in Bangkok, Thailand in February 1993 for Asian developing countries, with the aim of briefing capital-based officials on developments in different areas of the negotiations. The workshop was financed by the Government of Japan. It was attended by forty senior and middle-level officials from eighteen Asian developing countries, including four officials from two least-developed countries.

### Briefing Sessions for delegations and officials

9. Briefing of delegations and visiting officials of developing countries has been a regular feature of the technical assistance programme. Briefings were either given for individual delegations and officials or in the form of briefing sessions for a number of delegations. In the former case, Geneva-based delegations or visiting officials from capitals were briefed, upon request, on the progress of Uruguay Round negotiations in general as well as in areas of special interest to them.

10. In December 1992 the GATT Secretariat organized in Geneva a briefing session on the Uruguay Round addressed to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) participating in the Uruguay Round negotiations. Six other developing countries were also invited. The briefing session, attended by officials from forty-five countries, was co-financed by the European Communities (ACP countries) and the GATT Secretariat (non-ACP countries).

11. The Secretariat organized, upon the request of the government of Saudi Arabia, a briefing session in Geneva in July 1993 on the GATT and the Uruguay Round for officials from Saudi Arabia. It was organized in the context of Saudi Arabia's request for accession to the GATT.

### Dispute Settlement Course

12. Following the Montreal Decision related to dispute settlement, the Technical Cooperation Division organized, jointly with the Legal Affairs Division, a Dispute Settlement Course which took place in Geneva in July 1993. The course, which dealt with the legal and procedural elements of dispute settlement, included also a simulation exercise.

### Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)

13. The Technical Cooperation Division has provided requesting developing countries with technical assistance in the context of their preparations for trade policy review. Technical missions were sent in this context to Bolivia and Peru.

### Least-Developed Countries

14. Special attention has been given to providing technical assistance to least-developed countries in the context of their participation in the Uruguay Round negotiations. Technical assistance missions have visited some twelve least-developed countries since the beginning of 1993 to explain the Draft Final Act and to assist them, upon request, in the preparation of their draft offers on market access and services. Delegations of least-developed countries in Geneva have been briefed frequently on the progress of negotiations.