

Building trade capacity

In 2010, the WTO undertook a total of 337 technical assistance activities aimed at improving understanding of WTO principles. Particular emphasis was placed on providing assistance to least-developed countries. Training events were also held in preparation for the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade in 2011.

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Building trade capacity



Background

The Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) serves as the focal point for the coordination of all work on trade and development issues in the WTO. The committee deals with a variety of development-related issues such as technical cooperation and training and notifications under the Enabling Clause, which allows developed members to give more favourable treatment to developing countries.



More than two-thirds of WTO members are developing countries.

Trade and development

In 2010 the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) concluded negotiations on a transparency mechanism for preferential trade agreements, which was subsequently adopted by the General Council. Other issues discussed by the CTD and its Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) included capacity-building initiatives, market access for LDCs, the Aid for Trade initiative and the WTO's technical assistance activities.

The CTD held three formal regular sessions in 2010, as well as one dedicated session on regional trade agreements (RTAs) under the Enabling Clause. The committee continued its consideration of the developmental aspects of the Doha Round of negotiations, under the mandate given to it in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. It also heard the report of the 43rd session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC), which is the policymaking body of the ITC, the trade promotion agency for developing countries jointly sponsored by the WTO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The ITC's work focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and, in the context of the Aid for Trade initiative, on the private sector.

Notifications under the Enabling Clause

In 2010, the committee received notifications under the Enabling Clause concerning regional trade agreements (RTAs) between India and MERCOSUR (Southern Cone Common Market), India and Afghanistan, India and Nepal, India and the Republic of Korea, India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and ASEAN and the Republic of Korea. In its dedicated session, the committee considered the RTA between Chile and India.

Preferential trade arrangements

The committee concluded its negotiations on a transparency mechanism for preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) in October 2010, when it approved a revised draft proposal by Brazil, China, India and the United States. This text was adopted by the General Council in December 2010. The mechanism covers non-reciprocal preferential schemes, which are schemes in which the beneficiaries of trade concessions do not have to provide concessions in return. Upon notification to the WTO, each PTA will be considered in the CTD under the procedures that have been agreed to.

Duty-free and quota-free market access for LDCs

Duty-free and quota-free market access for LDCs remains a standing item on the committee's agenda. Brazil confirmed its intention to implement a duty-free quota-free scheme for LDCs, the coverage of which would be expanded in successive instalments until 100 per cent of tariff lines were covered. China indicated that, as of 1 July 2010, it was granting zero-tariff treatment on 4,762 tariff lines for products imported from the 33 LDCs that had completed the exchange of letters for that purpose. India provided updates on the implementation of its Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for LDCs. The European Union, which provides duty-free quota-free market access to LDC products under its Everything but Arms scheme, outlined the approach it is initiating with regard to rules of origin in its preferential arrangements.

Technical cooperation and training

The WTO's technical assistance and training activities (see page 117) were discussed by the committee. It took note of the 2009 Annual Report on Technical Assistance and Training, providing an overview of activities in the previous year, and the Technical Cooperation Audit Report for 2009, which evaluated those activities. The audit report, compiled by the Technical Cooperation Audit Unit, said progress was being made but more needed to be done to ensure that technical assistance met the needs of beneficiaries and had the desired impact. There had been a visible increase in the participation of beneficiaries in the Doha negotiations and an improvement in governments' ability to deal with WTO issues. However, the evidence was less clear on whether there was better compliance with WTO obligations.



Small economies

In 2010 the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) held one formal dedicated session to look at the wide range of proposals by small vulnerable economies (SVEs) in the WTO aimed at their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system.

The WTO Secretariat updated a compilation paper to assist the CTD in monitoring the progress of proposals by small vulnerable economies (SVEs) in the relevant WTO bodies and Doha Round negotiating groups. These proposals range across the Doha negotiations, covering agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services, rules (including fisheries subsidies) and trade facilitation, as well as the Aid for Trade initiative. The committee will continue to hold dedicated sessions on SVEs to monitor the situation in the Doha negotiations and, where possible, to make recommendations to the General Council.

Least-developed countries

In 2010 the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries considered trends in the trade performance of LDCs over the past decade, in connection with preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least-Developed Countries (LDC-IV) to be held in 2011. It also discussed trade-related technical assistance and capacity building, and accession of LDCs to the WTO.

Of the 49 LDCs designated by the United Nations (48 from 1 January 2011 onwards, after Maldives' graduation from LDC status on that date), 32 are WTO members and 12 are in various stages of their accession process.

Market access for LDCs

Market access for LDCs was discussed in two of the three meetings of the sub-committee. As background for the sub-committee's annual review of market access for products and services originating from LDCs, the WTO Secretariat provided a note on the trade performance of LDCs for the entire decade 2001–10, which will also serve as one of the WTO's substantive contributions to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least-Developed Countries (LDC-IV) to be held in Istanbul in May 2011. The note documents the latest trends in LDC trade and market access conditions, and includes a section on the evolution of trade balances.

The decade covered by the note relates to the time span of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least-Developed Countries (LDC-III) in 2001. The programme provided a framework for partnership 'to accelerate sustained economic growth and sustainable development in LDCs, to end marginalization by eradicating poverty, inequality and deprivation in these countries, and to enable them to integrate beneficially into the global economy'. One of its stated objectives was to enhance the role of trade in development.

The sub-committee received comprehensive information from Turkey as the host of LDC-IV and considered the two substantive documents prepared by the WTO Secretariat as its input into LDC-IV, namely, the report by the Director-General on the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001–10, and the Annual Market Access Report for LDCs, which on this occasion covered the full decade. The sub-committee also heard the inputs submitted by the LDC Group in Geneva to the LDC-IV process, in particular for inclusion in the action programme to be developed by United Nations member states. The sub-committee considered a statement by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on its LDC Ministerial Conference held in December 2009, culminating in a Ministerial Declaration and a Plan of Action, in preparation for LDC-IV.

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Background

The Committee on Trade and Development – in dedicated session – oversees the work programme on small economies and monitors the progress of proposals from small vulnerable economies (SVEs) in the various WTO bodies and Doha Round negotiating groups. SVEs, mostly but not exclusively small island states, do not constitute a defined group in the WTO but associate on specific issues.



Background

The Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) addresses issues of specific concern and interest to LDCs in the WTO. The work programme on LDCs, adopted following the Doha Ministerial Conference in 2001, covers market access, trade-related technical assistance and capacity building, accession of LDCs to the WTO, and LDC participation in the multilateral trading system. The sub-committee also monitors the work of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs in the WTO.

Technical assistance and capacity building

The sub-committee regularly monitors the progress of the WTO's trade-related technical assistance and other capacity-building initiatives for LDCs that concern the WTO, such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) (see page 111) and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) (see page 113). An overview of the WTO's technical assistance and training activities for LDCs, provided by the Secretariat, showed that these activities represented nearly 50 per cent of all the WTO's technical assistance to developing countries in 2010, reflecting the continuing priority given to LDCs. The sub-committee will continue its efforts to assess the specific needs of LDCs for trade capacity building.

The sub-committee also heard presentations from the Secretariat of the STDF and from the Executive Director of the EIF Secretariat, who reported on implementation since the EIF became operational in July 2009. In 2010, the EIF's global governance structure formally began its work. The year saw steady progress in EIF implementation, spread over the 47 beneficiaries which are at different stages of the process. (Information on the EIF is available on its new website, www.enhancedif.org). Under the STDF, five project preparation grants and two project grants were approved for LDCs in 2010, bringing total LDC approvals since 2003 to 29 project preparation grants and 16 project grants.

Accession of LDCs to the WTO

As of December 2010, 12 LDCs (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sudan, Vanuatu and Yemen), representing more than a third of those negotiating to join the WTO, were at various stages of their accession process. Progress is being made in a number of them.

The accession of LDCs continues to receive priority on the sub-committee's agenda. In 2010, the sub-committee organised an informal dialogue on accession of LDCs, deepening the engagement of WTO members with acceding LDCs as well as building a mutual understanding on issues arising in LDC accessions. There were also presentations from the EIF Executive Secretariat as well as from some of the EIF core agencies on their technical assistance in support of acceding LDCs.



Enhanced Integrated Framework

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for trade-related assistance to least-developed countries (LDCs), which became effectively operational in 2009, made significant progress in 2010 in relation to project delivery, outreach and institution building. By the end of the year the EIF was working with 46 LDCs and one 'graduated' country, and the 22 current donors to the multi-donor trust fund had contributed US\$ 120 million.

The EIF process aims to strengthen donors' support to a country's trade agenda through a genuine partnership among all EIF stakeholders. The objectives are to mainstream trade into national development strategies, establish structures needed to coordinate the delivery of trade-related technical assistance, and build capacity to trade, which also includes addressing critical supply-side constraints. The EIF is an enhanced version of the Integrated Framework, which was established in 1997.

The EIF's governance institutions were up and running in 2010: the EIF global Steering Committee and the full EIF Board were appointed and held their first meetings. The EIF is now working with 46 LDCs and Cape Verde, which has recently 'graduated' from the United Nations list of LDCs. Meanwhile, at the end of 2010, the EIF Trust Fund was supported by 22 bilateral donors and total available funding for the EIF stood at approximately US\$ 120 million, with total pledges of over US\$ 180 million, to be disbursed over a five-year period.

EIF financing has two separate 'windows', Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 projects, comprising institutional capacity building and diagnostic trade integration studies (DTIS), are intended to help countries identify and prioritize bottlenecks and other constraints to trade expansion, economic growth and sustainable development. In recommending areas where policy changes and trade-related assistance, including productive capacity building and trade-related infrastructure, can help the country overcome identified barriers, the DTIS provide a common basis for action by governments, civil society, and private sector and development partner stakeholders. Tier 2 projects, designed to build supply-side capacity to trade, provide start-up finance for activities identified as priorities in the first phase.

By the end of 2010, 29 Tier 1 projects had been approved. This number included 19 projects providing multi-year support to 'national implementation arrangements', seven pre-DTIS projects and three DTIS validations. To date, 42 DTIS and three DTIS updates have been validated, with another three DTIS and several updates in the pipeline. Tier 2 project guidelines were also finalized in 2010, and about 20 projects are in various stages of development for submission in 2011.

Progress was made on the EIF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Eleven EIF countries have undergone capacity building on monitoring and evaluation, and additional expertise is being recruited to the EIF Executive Secretariat to further support these efforts.

As part of the EIF capacity-building programme, three regional workshops were held in 2010 for Pacific, Asian, and West and Central African countries. At these workshops, EIF stakeholders shared experiences and lessons learned with a view to developing new project proposals.

Building trade capacity



Background

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for trade-related assistance to least-developed countries (LDCs) is a multi-donor programme that supports LDCs to become more active players in the multilateral trading system. The EIF combines the efforts of LDCs with those of six core international agencies (the International Monetary Fund, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the WTO), donors and other development partners who act as observers (such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization).



The Enhanced Integrated Framework worked in 2010 to boost the visibility of the programme through press, publicity and outreach activities.

Building trade capacity

The EIF worked in 2010 to boost the visibility of the programme through press, publicity and outreach activities. A new EIF website, www.enhancedif.org, was launched in English and French. Additional EIF online discussion forums are planned for 2011 together with recruitment of a new communications team in the Executive Secretariat. The EIF also reinforced collaboration with strategic partners, collaborating in 2010 with, among others, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the African Development Bank, the Trade Facilitation Facility of the World Bank, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (see page 113) and TradeMark Southern Africa.

Work envisaged for 2011 includes completing the EIF Five-Year Strategic Plan, including a new communication strategy; operationalizing the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; finalizing a compendium of working documents, designed to be a user's guide to the EIF; further strengthening the EIF's capacity-building programme; and organizing high-level EIF events at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least-Developed Countries in Istanbul in May and at the Third Global Aid for Trade Review in Geneva in July.



Standards and Trade Development Facility

Contributions to the STDF reached US\$ 4.3 million in 2010, from US\$ 300,000 of seed finance from the World Bank and the WTO in 2003. There are now 19 donors to the trust fund and, in addition to the core partners, other organizations participating in the STDF include the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as donors and developing countries.

The STDF develops high-quality tools and information resources to support SPS capacity building for use by beneficiaries, donors and other organizations involved in the provision and delivery of SPS-related technical cooperation. In this context, the STDF organized two events in 2010:

- A technical working meeting held in Geneva in July on the development and application of SPS indicators to track and measure performance of national SPS systems, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This work will be carried forward in 2011 through pilot testing activities on SPS indicators in selected developing countries.
- A workshop on the potential role and value of public-private partnerships in support of SPS capacity. Presentations and plenary discussions fostered an extensive dialogue across the public and private sector on policy and implementation issues related to such partnerships.

At the request of the African Union Commission, the STDF prepared a scoping study on regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa. It also began a complementary study on the existence and functioning of national SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa, including a set of practical guidelines to enhance national-level SPS coordination.

Support was given to the development and implementation of SPS strategies and action plans at regional, national and/or thematic level, with an emphasis on evaluating and prioritizing SPS capacity needs. The STDF film, *Trading Safely: Protecting Health, Promoting Development*, was translated into Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

The STDF actively disseminated experiences and good practices in SPS capacity building at international, regional and national levels during conferences, training workshops and other information sessions and meetings, including the WTO SPS Committee. It also participated in and contributed to several SPS-specific and broader trade-related capacity-building initiatives and programmes, implemented by STDF partners, donors, observers and other organizations. The STDF's continuing efforts to ensure that SPS issues and priorities are properly addressed included close collaboration with, among others, the Aid for Trade Initiative, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF) implemented by the World Bank, and several regional development banks.

A new STDF website, www.standardsfacility.org, was launched with enhanced content and functionality, new features and a more contemporary look. The STDF continued to issue briefing notes on specific thematic topics as well as its tri-annual newsletter.

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Background

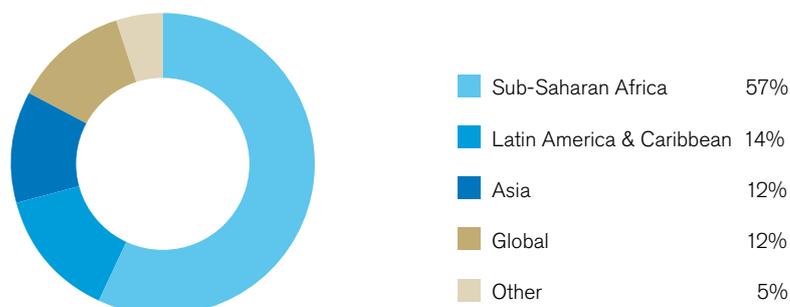
The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a joint initiative in capacity building and technical cooperation aimed at raising awareness on the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, increasing coordination in the provision of SPS-related assistance, and mobilizing resources to assist developing countries enhance their capacity to meet SPS standards. Established in 2002 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the WTO, the STDF is a partnership financed by voluntary contributions to a trust fund. The WTO provides the secretariat.



The Standards and Trade Development Facility undertook capacity building in 2010 at conferences, training workshops and other meetings.

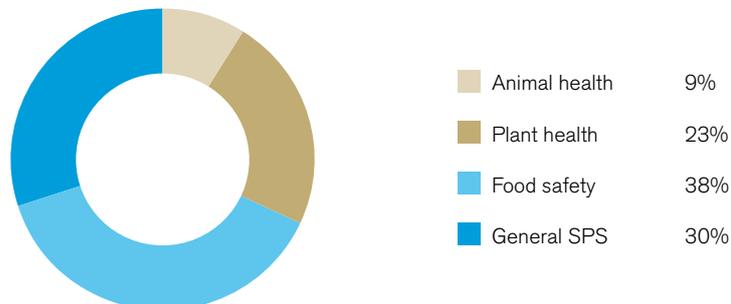
Seven project preparation grants (PPGs) and seven project grants were awarded grants in 2010, bringing the total number of PPGs and projects funded through the STDF by the end of 2010 to 45 and 47 respectively. Of the total number of grants, 57 per cent have been awarded to sub-Saharan Africa, 14 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 per cent to Asia. In addition, 12 per cent of projects and PPGs can be classified as global (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) (number)



On a thematic basis, 38 per cent of projects and PPGs were dedicated to food safety issues, 23 per cent to plant health and 9 per cent to animal health, while 30 per cent of could be classified as global (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: STDF projects and PPGs (number)



Overall, the STDF has devoted 51 per cent of project resources to least-developed countries and other low-income countries.



Aid for Trade

In 2010 the work on Aid for Trade in the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) focused on implementation of the 2010-11 Aid for Trade work programme, which embraces a wide range of partners and organizations. The WTO and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also began preparations for the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade, planned for July 2011.

In 2010 the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) held five formal sessions on Aid for Trade, at which it heard from various partners and organizations and discussed each of the five objectives of the 2010-11 Aid for Trade work programme.

The OECD noted that the international community had continued to mobilize new Aid for Trade resources. Commitments in 2008 totalled US\$ 41.7 billion, a 35 per cent increase in real terms from 2007, and an increase of 62 per cent from the 2002-05 baseline. The scale of the rise was such that Aid for Trade in 2008 represented 37 per cent of Official Development Assistance that could be allocated to specific sectors, up from 32 per cent in 2007. The European Union's Aid for Trade Monitoring Report 2010, also based on 2008 flows, showed that the EU and its member states had already met the pledge made at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005 to allocate €2 billion a year in Aid for Trade annually by 2010.

The World Bank reported on its Trade Facilitation Facility, its Group-wide trade strategy and the sixteenth replenishment of its International Development Association. The Trade Facilitation Facility, launched in 2009, aims to support a variety of Aid for Trade projects related to trade facilitation, focusing initially on low-income and sub-Saharan African countries. The International Development Association makes concessional loans to the world's 79 poorest countries for, among other things, the promotion of trade and regional economic integration.

The CTD also received information on the Islamic Development Bank's activities on agricultural development; the Enhanced Integrated Framework's Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects, regional workshops, and work with respect to mainstreaming (see page 111); the International Trade Centre's activities in support of the private sector and its export development strategies; the African Development Bank's capital resources increase; Nigeria's trade and capacity development reform programme; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's publication on South-South cooperation in Africa; the Commonwealth Secretariat's Aid for Trade research activities; the United Nations Development Programme's Aid for Trade activities in the Commonwealth of Independent States; and Canada's new strategy for sustainable economic growth.

The CTD received a large number of reports on Aid for Trade events held outside Geneva during 2010. These included several events organized by and for countries in Africa; a consultative meeting for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region; a workshop and later a ministerial review meeting for countries in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs); a meeting of the Asian Development Bank's Regional Technical Group (RTG); and national seminars in India and Viet Nam. An OECD expert meeting on 'Indicators: Measuring Aid for Trade Results at the Country Level', held at OECD headquarters in Paris in October, reviewed the use of indicators for Aid for Trade monitoring and evaluation. This meeting ended with agreement to develop a menu of indicators for programmes and projects through a number of pilot studies coordinated by the OECD Secretariat.

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Background

Aid for Trade aims to help developing countries, particularly least-developed countries, develop the trade-related skills and infrastructure needed to implement and benefit from WTO agreements and expand their trade. The Aid for Trade work programme for 2010-11, issued in November 2009 and overseen by the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD), focuses on generating continued impetus for resource mobilization, mainstreaming trade into development plans, strengthening regional cooperation, improving monitoring and evaluation, and promoting greater dialogue with the private sector.



The amount of Aid for Trade funding provided by the international community totalled over US\$ 41 billion in 2009.

Aid for Trade was also discussed at the General Council in October 2010. The Director-General introduced the joint WTO-OECD monitoring and evaluation exercise which underpins the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade to be held on 18-19 July 2011. Subsequent letters to members and observers, jointly signed by the Director-General and the OECD Secretary General, outlined the focus of the review: assessment of the impact and outcome of Aid for Trade on the ground; and the monitoring and evaluation exercise, to be based on three main elements – an analysis of trade flows by the OECD, self-assessment questionnaires, and case stories describing what is working and where improvements are needed.

Four dedicated thematic workshops – aimed at encouraging the sharing of information and best practices between members and international organizations – were also held in 2010 under the auspices of the CTD. These covered Aid for Trade and Agriculture (March), Aid for Trade and Development Finance (May), Monitoring and Evaluation of Aid for Trade (July), and Aid for Trade and Mainstreaming (October). A joint International Trade Centre (ITC)/WTO seminar on 'Connecting West African Farmers to the Market' and an expert roundtable on 'The Gender Dimension of Aid for Trade', organized jointly by the ITC and WTO with the support of the Rwandan and United Kingdom Governments, were held in October.

To support members in the process leading up to the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade, the WTO and the OECD, in collaboration with regional partners, conducted a number of regional training events to assist developing country members in completing the self-assessment questionnaires and facilitate the preparation of case stories. These took place in Libreville, Gabon (October) for Francophone Africa; in Hanoi, Viet Nam (November) for the Asian region; in Johannesburg, South Africa (November) for Anglophone Africa, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; in Quito, Ecuador (November/December) for Latin America, organized in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank; and in Nadi, Fiji (December) for Pacific Island states, organized in collaboration with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.



Technical cooperation and training

In 2010 the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) continued to put in place measures designed to improve further both content and delivery of WTO technical assistance and training programmes, reinforce its capacity to interact with beneficiaries in all regions and bolster its coordinating role for trade capacity building activities in its field of competence and responsibility. The ITTC's role is to help WTO members gain a better understanding of their rights and obligations within the multilateral trading system, and to strengthen countries' institutional capacities to deal with the challenges emerging from it.

The work of the ITTC in 2010 was guided by the WTO's second biennial Technical Assistance Plan 2010-11, which builds on lessons learned from the implementation of the first biennial Plan (2008-09). The ITTC continued to institute measures to improve its own institutional and delivery capacity and to enhance the efficiency and impact of its trade-related technical assistance.

The ITTC's new approach to trade-related technical assistance, consolidated in 2010, is based on the notion of gradual and progressive learning and uses eTraining (online training) as a means of delivery of technical assistance across all products. This approach is contributing to more sustainable human and institutional capacity-building, strengthened linkages between programmes, greater synergies, and more coherence and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of technical assistance. It includes a more rigorous selection of candidates that has allowed a gradual move to higher levels of learning.

The 2010-11 Technical Assistance Plan formalized the cooperation with regional partner institutions, and this continued to be a priority for the Secretariat in 2010. The regional approach to addressing capacity constraints is consistent with the overall approach on Aid for Trade, complementing the work and initiatives undertaken by bilateral donors as well as other agencies active in trade-related technical assistance. The coordination of technical assistance programmes has also become a priority, and a coordination mechanism has been established within the WTO Secretariat as well as with partner agencies. In November, the Global Trade-Related Technical Assistance Database (GTAD) was launched by the Director-General, in the presence of nearly a dozen international agencies. The GTAD will feature upcoming activities organized by the various agencies, thus enhancing coordination mechanisms between them.

The Secretariat continued to pursue its outreach programmes in 2010, including its work with parliamentarians, the private sector, academics and universities. The Academic Chairs programme was consolidated in 2010, culminating in a launching conference organized at the WTO in May (see page 129). Individual launch ceremonies were also held at most of the 14 universities holding WTO Chairs. The WTO Chairs programme has greatly improved coordination and promoted more efficient academic cooperation, by concentrating WTO support to academic courses, research activities, academic networking and public outreach through the Chairs Programme.

A major initiative in 2010 was the decision to introduce results-based management (RBM) in the design, management and delivery of WTO's trade capacity building programmes. This requires the use of appropriate indicators to measure trade performance. A work plan has been proposed by the Secretariat gradually to introduce RBM in the design and programming of all trade-related capacity building initiatives. The conceptual framework will be finalized early in 2011, with a view to incorporating the RBM approach in the next biennial Technical Assistance Plan for 2012-13.

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Background

The WTO's trade-related technical assistance programme contributes to multilateral efforts to enhance the delivery of Aid for Trade to developing countries and to improve the impact of this initiative (see page 115). Within the WTO Secretariat, trade-related technical assistance is coordinated by the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC). Its activities ('products') include eTraining, global and regional training courses, academic programmes, and seminars and workshops at regional and national levels.



In 2010, the WTO undertook 337 technical assistance activities in Geneva and in WTO member countries and regions.



Overview of activities

In 2010, the WTO, including the ITTC, undertook a total of 337 technical assistance activities, in Geneva and in WTO member countries and regions. In addition, WTO officials were invited to provide input and expertise for 97 conferences and meetings. The majority were organized in partnership with other international organizations.

At national level, the activities most in demand were multi-topic briefing sessions and briefings on the specific issues of accessions, non-agricultural market access, rules, trade in services, and the Agreements on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures. The immediate objective of these briefings was to enable participants to have a better understanding of fundamental WTO principles and the topics covered. However, on some specific Doha Round negotiating issues, an objective was to give participants the skills and expertise necessary to negotiate a position that would lead to a positive outcome for their country at the conclusion of the round. Finally, nine national WTO reference centres were established in line with the strategy adopted at the end of 2009 to better tailor programme activities to the specific needs of beneficiaries.

The 90 planned regional seminars (which are subject-specific) were spread across all regions, with Africa being the most visited. Market access for non-agricultural goods and other market access related subjects had the most activities, with at least one regional workshop a month. These were undertaken within the framework of a strengthened role for ITTC regional desks, reinforcing the Secretariat's interaction with beneficiaries and regional partners, and enhancing the WTO's coordinating role in the field of trade capacity building.

Eight eTraining sessions were undertaken in 2010. Over 2,300 participants from all regions, including 500 from least-developed countries, completed courses on subjects such as agriculture, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade-related intellectual property rights, and the multilateral trade agreements. A three-month regular trade policy course for government officials was held in Geneva in 2010 in English. The first advanced trade policy course, positioned at 'level 3' in the progressive learning strategy introduced in 2010, was organized at the end of the year. In addition, three-month regional trade policy courses were held in Colombia for Latin American countries, in Singapore for the Asia-Pacific region, in Benin for French-speaking Africa, and in Swaziland for English-speaking Africa.

Seven Geneva-based topic-specific symposia took place at the WTO, in addition to the regular twice-yearly 'Geneva Week'. The purpose of Geneva Week is to inform non-resident WTO members about recent developments in the WTO's work programme and the ongoing Doha negotiations.

Activities by region

In 2010 the trade-related technical assistance programme continued to place particular emphasis on providing assistance to Africa and to least-developed countries (LDCs), whose integration into the multilateral trading system remains a priority for the WTO. Activities held in Africa during 2010 represented 30 per cent of all activities, with 19 per cent in Asia and the Pacific (a decrease of 21 per cent since 2009), 12 per cent in Latin America, 8 per cent in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, 6 per cent in Arab and Middle Eastern countries, and 5 per cent in the Caribbean. Global events represented 23 per cent of trade-related technical assistance in 2010. For a full breakdown of activities by region, see Table 1.

LDCs benefited from over 43 per cent of all technical assistance activities, including not only national activities held in LDCs but also regional and global activities in which LDCs were invited to participate. Several products have been specifically created for LDCs, or have LDCs as a priority, such as the three-week introduction courses for LDCs. Other programmes give LDCs priority in determining beneficiaries. For example, the Reference Centres Programme specifically focuses on the installation/upgrade of reference centres for LDC members. The Netherlands Trainee Programme and the Mission Internship Programme both focus on applicants from African and LDC countries. In 2010, nine of the 16 candidates admitted to the Mission Internship Programme were from Africa (of which six were from LDCs in Africa). Of the other seven non-African



countries, three were LDCs. In the Netherlands Trainee Programme, nine of the 11 participants were from Africa, and only two were not from an LDC. One of the two non-African participants was from an LDC. In addition, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (see page 111) focused its programmes on LDCs.

The high proportion of activities at national level (close to 40 per cent) reflects continued demand, and allows the Secretariat to tailor training to the particularities of each country. Most activities held at national level are meant to address those aspects of the WTO agreements that pose challenges for the country in question.

Financing the trade-related technical assistance programme

One of the priorities for the trade-related technical assistance programme during 2010 continued to be ensuring timely and adequate levels of funding. The programme is financed mainly from the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, which is a voluntary funding window provided by WTO members. However, donor countries continued their support for the trust fund, as a result of which funding levels for 2010 were more than sufficient to meet needs.

Building trade capacity

TRTA by region	National TA		Regional		Global ²		Other (Conferences, etc.)		Total	
	Number of activities	As a % of total activities	Number of activities	As a % of total activities	Number of activities	As a % of total activities	Number of activities	As a % of total activities	Number of activities	As a % of total activities
Africa	75	40	29	31	0	0	25	26	129	30
Arab and Middle East	12	6	8	10	0	0	3	3	23	6
Asia and the Pacific	43	23	22	24	0	0	16	16	81	19
Central and Eastern Europe	16	8	10	11	0	0	9	9	35	8
Caribbean	14	7	5	5	0	0	1	1	20	5
Latin America	29	15	16	17	0	0	9	9	54	12
Sub-Total	189	100	90	98	0	0	63	65	342	79
Global	0	0	0	0	58	100	34	35	92	21
Total	189	100	90	100	58	100	97	100	434	100

¹ Percentage columns do not always add up to 100 due to rounding.

² Activities under the 'global' category are not targeted at a specific region, but include, for example, the Geneva-based courses and topic-specific workshops and symposia, distance learning, internship programmes and the advisory role on legal issues – Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).