

Government of Sudan

Ministry of Trade

Technical Assistances and Capacity Building Needs

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Introduction:

This paper has been prepared to determine the requirements of trade related technical assistance in support of Sudan economic development program. The overall objective is to integrate Sudan into the Multicultural Trading System in order to accelerate Sudan's accession to the WTO. This can be achieved through assisting Sudanese officials in elaborating strategies and tactics for engaging in bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the WTO accession process, which has become more complex and cumbersome. Other objectives include strengthening the knowledge and understanding of the various WTO agreement implementation and practices.

Sudan Accession to the WTO is facing various challenges that need assistance in order to be tackled. The main bottlenecks inhabiting the development of Sudan's sustained export capacities of goods and services are Supply side constrains such as:

- Low productivity, lack of diversified production, unrealized potentials, high income risk and uncertainty, scarce inputs, and poor logistics and skills.
- Narrow base of export commodities where cotton, oil seeds, livestock, Gum Arabic account for more than 70 percent of non oil exports proceeds.
- Weak physical infrastructure, in particular inadequate roads network, weak capacity of the railway system, long distance between

production areas and main ports (port Sudan) further aggravates these problems.

- Lack of adequate sieving units, slaughter houses and storage facilities, including cold storages and lack of adequate facilities for packaging management.
- Weak financing and credit facilities.
- Trade and customs facilitation, freight charges, quality management, elimination of cumbersome legal and administrative procedures, inadequate ports, transport facilities, paucity of human skills, Lack of experience among the private sector exporters and building a strong public private dialogue.

Sector Specific Capacity Building Needs:

1. On Accession and Post Accession:

There is need for staff training in all areas of international trade by providing training courses including:

- Negotiations Skills (training for the national negotiating team)
- Training of trainers.
- Languages training particularly English and French.
- Training programs on export competitiveness, trade policies, and trade agreements.
- Workshop to address the post accession challenges such as implementation of the all WTO agreements and trade policy review.
- Training on the WTO notification system.

2. On Trade Policy :

- Undertake study to evaluate the revenue impact of reducing tariff peaks, removing development tax and eliminating import specific excise taxes.

- Improve capacity to undertake post market surveillance of legal weights and measures for consumer protection (training programs).
- Training programs on export diversification and competitiveness, trade policies, and trade agreements.
- Training programme on market access and competitiveness.

3. On Agricultural Sector:

- Establish a functioning SPS Enquiry Point and strengthen SPS capacity to support increasing agricultural exports.
- Support information system to disseminate quality standards with all standards published on the Internet.
- Training programme on use of technology and good practices to strengthening the extension, with the view to increase agricultural production yields.
- Workshop to raise awareness of quality assurance, food safety and regulatory compliance among producers,

4. On Livestock: Training Programmes :

- Comprehensive Livestock Statistics
- Planning and Livestock economics.
- Animal health and related veterinary services
- Veterinary quarantines and meat hygiene.
- Animal production developments.
- Veterinary extension and pastoral development
- Training on modern IT techniques.
- Livestock data collection.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.
- SPS and TBT WTO agreements implementation.
- Strengthening and improving the marketing information system of livestock.

- Training on livestock surveillance, inspection and certification system.
- Development of networking system between SPS and TBT related authorities (Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture , Ministry of Health, Ministry Of Trade) to enhance harmonization and cooperation on implementing policies and facilitate trade.

5. On` Sudan Standard Metrology Organization (SSMO):

- Awareness workshop on TBT agreement in Khartoum to be delivered in Arabic by a WTO Expert targeting related bodies from public and private sectors - focusing on legal framework, obligations and procedures.
- Training program prepared by WTO TBT Division in collaboration with a notification point of a member on the operational procedures and requirements of a TBT inquiry point and notification point as well as use of WTO TBT online system targeting staff of SSMO.
- Establishment of the TBT inquiry point.

6. On Industrial Sector: Training Programmes :

- Negotiations skills
- Monitoring and evaluation of industrial projects and programs
- Quality control management
- Preparation of policies plans and programs.
- Project Appraisal, design and management.
- TBT and SPS-Food safety and Food control

7. On Intellectual Property (IP):

- Technical assistance is for developing national expertise in various aspects of IP including, management, information, dispute resolution, technology transfer, licensing, patent drafting, and enforcement.
- Staff and Management of Registrar General of IP within the Ministry of Justice of Sudan as well as stakeholders needed to equip with technical and managerial capacity to provide quality and timely service to IP users and creators.
- In respect of promotion and develop of human resources, we hope that WTO will help us in the following:
 - Developing national expertise in various fields of IP.
 - Training The staff of the national IP Office in the IP fields especially trademarks, patent, and industrial designs
 - Spreading IP Culture through providing IP training tools and training manuals.
 - Preparing programs (training practical and theory and also knowledge transfer) for enhancing professional IP Skills (patent agent, IP Lawyers, IP Managers.
 - Provide E-learning modules; also we look forward to the encouragement from WTO for the partnerships with higher education institution.