

Today

30 May 01:19 AM

## Statement on Technical assistance, partnership, outreach & policy advice

I would first of all join my voice in thanks to the government and people of China for this extraordinary platform they have provided for sharing WTO accession best practices for LDCs. Thanks also goes to the WTO Secretariat for the excellent arrangement made.

As you know, we have fulfilled the requirements for holding our first Working Party Meeting. At its May 1 meeting HE Ambassador Joakim Reiter, Permanent Mission of Sweden to WTO was named the Chairman of Liberia on May 1. Upon submission of our MFTR on April 20, 2011, questions were received from the US in May and the EU in July the same year. The answers to those questions and supporting documents requested were submitted on May 16 this year.

Due to limited capacity within the government, the trade related ministries and agencies being no exception, through the EIF, TRADECOM assisted us in getting the MFTR completed. Technical assistance has also come from MCC in the form of Consultants who have assisted us in answering the questions received.

I have said all of this to say, we could not be where we are had we not received TA.

Like most LDCs, one of our most serious challenges we face is limited capacity to drive the accession process.

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- A 10 month training program for one of our staff, Fred Johnson at the WTO Academy
- DG Pascal Lamy sent a delegation headed by his SA to make an assessment of our Trade related ministries and agencies and make recommendations
- Short term training has been provided by Japan for 2 of our staff in Japan on WTO Negotiations. Another staff will be leaving for Japan in June for a similar short term course. All of these people will form part of our WTO Unit.
- In addition to providing TA in answering the questions received, MCC is providing assistance in drafting the Legislative Action Plan together with an International Lawyer from a US program called the International Senior Lawyers Project. They are working with 2 Liberian lawyers.
- MCC has also provided training for our Technical Working Group. The group comprising of 12 persons went to Sweden for a one week training in the accession process and how to prepare request for assistance from The Swedish National Board of Trade for possible funding by Sida.
- The Swiss Government is funding a short term consultancy of iDEAS to help prepare our negotiating team for the first WPM.
- We have just submitted a request for assistance from UNCTAD
- From this round table, we know that we can get assistance from the ITC private Sector sensitisation and by in
- We intend to tap assistance from the secretariat and the Chairman of our WP.

What we have learned so far is:

1. The time delay in receiving response for support . Example Swiss
2. In some cases Liber Upon you need assistance to prepare the request. Example

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3. With all the assistance around, we have to ensure proper coordination and our Chairman has offered his assistance here.
4. Last but not least, we must ensure that

