1.1 General Technical assistance and capacity building

Technical Assistance (TA) has remained at the core of WTO's work programme for Africa. From July 2012, the WTO's technical cooperation programme continued with its efforts to enhance human and institutional capacity development on multilateral trade issues in Africa. The assistance to Africa during this period (July 2012-April 2013) was/is being channelled through the 2012-2013 TA Plan.

As in previous years, Africa received, and will continue to receive, the largest share of TA activities during this period, both at the national and regional level. Approximately 32% of national activities organised/planned by the WTO in the period July 2011 to April 2012, were/will be conducted in African countries, as well as approximately 25% of regional activities. This trend will continue in the foreseeable future as Africa remains the most challenged region in terms of trade capacity.

Since July 2012, Africa has already benefited from a number of national and regional activities. Over 2000 candidates were trained in the period from July to December 2012, spread over approximately 82 activities, held both in Geneva and at various locations in Africa. More activities are scheduled for the period up to 30 April - at least 25 national activities on various WTO subjects, and 3 regional activities - on Non-Agricultural market Access (NAMA); Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); and on the Government Procurement Agreement - are already scheduled up to May 2013.

In general, African countries would also continue to benefit from various WTO TA activities, including the Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) for government officials, the regional trade policy courses (RTPC), to be held separately for English-speaking Africa and French-speaking Africa before the end of the year, as well as several other Geneva-based courses.

Technical assistance would also continue to be provided, in response to the specific needs of the nine acceding African countries (Algeria, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Libya, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, and Sudan). Further, Reference Centres would continue to be upgraded in 2013, to meet the standard required for effective use in e-training: replacing obsolete hardware and other materials, training the participants in the efficient use of the WTO websites, databases and trade-related software. In the period up to December 2012, 40% of the Reference Centre installations and upgrades were done in Africa. This trend will continue in 2013. Overall, of the 108 existing Reference Centres established/upgraded so far, approximately half are in Africa.

Increased Secretariat support has continued to be provided to the WTO African Group in Geneva, which has become one of the main pillars for the formulation of trade policy for African countries. This is especially important in a year of an upcoming WTO ministerial meeting (the 9th Ministerial meeting is scheduled for Bali, Indonesia, at the end of the year). WTO technical cooperation also extended to providing support for those Members who do not have physical representation in Geneva (of which many are from Africa), including the preparation of regular non-resident Member briefing notes, and the holding of a bi-annual week of briefings known as the "Geneva Week". The last Geneva Week for 2012 was held from 10 to 14 December 2012, and the first one for 2013 is scheduled to be held from 29 April to 3 May 2013.

Africa continues to be a major beneficiary of several other TA initiatives. For example, the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP), designed to expose officials to the day-to-day workings of the WTO for a ten month period, gives Africa and LDCs priority consideration. This has allowed
African officials to further broaden their exposure to the day-to-day work of the WTO, including the identification of the TRTA needs of their countries. The same priority to Africa applies for the Mission Internship Programme (MIP), which sponsors the attachment of officials to their Geneva resident missions. In 2012, six of the eighteen candidates admitted to the MIP were from Africa. In the NTP, twelve of the sixteen candidates accepted were from Africa. For 2013, the NTP programme, which will commence in March, will have ten out of a total of fifteen candidates from African countries. In the MIP for the first 6 months of 2013, seven out of a total of nineteen candidates are from Africa.

In addition to activities envisaged under the TA Plan, the WTO and NEPAD initiated discussion on a collaborative relationship for the benefit of the African countries. This is in view of NEPAD’s new position within the African Union, as one of its technical implementation arms. The new collaborative relationship envisages focused training by WTO of key NEPAD personnel who would eventually become trainers on trade-related subjects, establishment of a WTO Reference Centre at the NEPAD Headquarters in Midrand, South Africa, and the sharing of data on training materials and other related issues. This new initiative is expected to be finalized and, hopefully, take effect in the course of 2013.

1.2 The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)

The EIF, an Aid for Trade partnership for LDCs, is making headway in helping least developed countries to integrate into the global trading system. It operates within the framework of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. It seeks to strengthen trade institutions and foundations and roll out priority national catalytic projects in areas such as adding value to agriculture, trade facilitation, export promotion, and productive capacity building. The programme is helping 48 of the poorest countries worldwide, over two thirds from Africa, and is supported by 23 donors to the EIF Trust Fund with pledges of US$240 million and contributions of approximately US$178 million (up from US $155 million in 2011) as of 31 December 2012.

An independent mid-term review (MTR) conducted between July and November 2012 concluded that the EIF programme, which became operational in 2009, was highly relevant to the trade and economic priorities of LDCs and had contributed to building capacity for trade-related strategies and plans, in mainstreaming trade into national development strategies and in ensuring a coordinated delivery of trade-related assistance following country priorities. The MTR also indicated that the EIF had supported countries in market development, enhancing productivity, improving programme quality, addressing supply-side capacity constraints and trade integration. Following the MTR discussions, the EIF Steering Committee (EIFSC), at its December 2012 meeting, accepted the proposal by the EIF Board to extend the programme mandate to 31 December 2015, with an additional operational period for project implementation to 31 December 2017.

1.3 EIF Progress in 2012

During 2012, the number of approved Tier 1 projects increased to 43, from 40 at the end of 2011. This includes 31 projects providing multi-year support for plans to mainstream trade and ensure coordinated implementation of priority activities, identified through the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) process and 12 pre-DTIS projects. 14 DTIS Updates were approved in 2012. The number of Tier 2 projects approved for implementation rose to 12 from 1 at the end of 2011. There is currently a pipeline of over 28 Tier 2 projects across a variety of sectors targeting compliance with
standards, enhancing the services sector, value addition, export growth and income generation for the poor.

Approved Tier 2 projects in 2012 include: enhancing the sesame sector with a strong focus on private sector collaboration in Burkina Faso; institutional capacity building in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards in Burundi; feasibility studies on establishing a cold storage facility, developing an existing export processing zone, and identification and classification of tourism sites in Burundi; increasing exports of milled rice and high-value silk in Cambodia; adding value and improving the varieties of sesame, corn and palm seeds and plants in Central African Republic; adding value in agriculture with a focus on cashew nuts, groundnuts and sesame in The Gambia; promotion of fresh fruits and vegetables production for domestic and export markets in Lesotho; promoting the gum Arabic sector in Mali; improving quality and adding value to ginger exports in Nepal; supporting eco-tourism in Sierra Leone; and improving the productivity and quality of honey in Yemen.

1.3.1 Monitoring, capacity building and consolidation of the EIF partnership

The EIF has been helping countries set up monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programmes to evaluate their national projects. Following an M&E workshop for English-speaking countries, held in Uganda in 2011, the workshop for French-speaking countries was hosted by Burkina Faso in 2012. To enhance the EIF’s reporting capacity and information sharing, the EIF Database, also known as the ‘EIF Knowledge Hub’, was launched in 2012.

Tailored capacity-building programmes rolled out in 2012 included a project development module jointly developed with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and piloted in a training workshop in Senegal. The EIF also jointly organized, with UNDP, a trade-mainstreaming module with pilots in Burkina Faso, Cambodia and Zambia. The results have been the adoption of a trade road map with set recommendations in Burkina Faso, the development of trade strategies in Cambodia and the start of a dialogue to reform policy implementation in trade and trade-related ministries and agencies in Zambia.

The EIF partnership also welcomed South Sudan as one of the new entrants to the programme following an EIF Board decision, increasing the number of EIF countries to 48.

1.4 Aid for Trade

The international community has continued to mobilize new Aid-for-Trade resources and in spite of the fiscal and economic difficulties faced by many donor countries, aid-for-trade commitments in 2010 reached US$45 billion, an increase of 12% compared to 2009 and up 82% since the 2002/05 baseline. Aid for Trade support to Africa increased by 133% to reach US$17.4 billion, up from an average of US$7.5 billion in the years 2002-2005. Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, are among the ten African countries in the list of top 20 recipients which receive half of total Aid for Trade. The bulk of the Aid for Trade support went to transport and storage, energy and the agriculture sectors. Aid for trade is also contributing to the promotion of regional integration in Africa through multi-country programmes, such as cross-border infrastructure and support for Regional Trade Agreements. Aid for Trade to multi country and regional programmes almost doubled to reach US$5 billion in 2010 up from US$1.4 billion during 2002/05.

The WTO continued to actively promote and mobilise support for Aid for Trade in Africa, including through close interaction with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), as well as several African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
The WTO, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, organised a side event on Aid for Trade and Regional Integration during the Annual meeting of the African Development Bank held in Arusha, Tanzania, in May 2012. The event provided the opportunity for representatives of African Regional Economic Communities, government officials, development partners, private sector and civil society representatives to discuss and explore how Aid for Trade can help in removing barriers to regional integration.

The WTO provided support to the monitoring and evaluation exercise led by the AUC and UNECA. This will allow for an assessment of the impact of past regional trade support and the lessons that need to be learnt for the programming of future Aid for Trade support to African regional trade integration. The results from the AU-UNECA monitoring and evaluation exercise will be discussed at the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade in July 2013.

In October 2012, the WTO launched the Aid for Trade monitoring and evaluation exercise which will provide valuable input for the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, scheduled for July 2013. The aim of the monitoring and evaluation exercise is to survey the barriers that are holding back some developing countries from participation or value addition within value chains, how Aid for Trade can help overcome these barriers, and to examine the development effects of participating in value chains. Particular focus will be on African and least-developed countries.

1.5 The Standards and Trade Development Facility

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership that supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations. These are used to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain or maintain access to markets. The STDF, which was established in 2002 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), is financed by voluntary contributions to a trust fund. The WTO acts as the secretariat.¹

The STDF continued to actively disseminate experiences and good practices in SPS capacity building in Africa, including through close interaction with the EIF, the AUC and its specialized agencies, as well as several Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

In September 2012, the AUC and the STDF jointly organized a meeting on SPS coordination and capacity building in Africa. The objective was to discuss the role and function of the AUC, its specialized agencies and the RECs in adding value to SPS coordination and capacity building initiatives at the continental, regional and national level.² The meeting also served to discuss the implementation of Paragraph 62 of the 2011 Communiqué from the 7th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting in which the AUC and NEPAD were mandated to oversee the establishment of a Continental SPS Working Group to mainstream SPS matters in the CAADP framework.

In the course of 2012, the STDF released a preliminary study on national SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa.³ The study presents and analyses the findings of a survey to examine the existence and functioning of national SPS committees in Africa. The publication extracts lessons learned and provides practical suggestions and guidance to countries that may consider the establishment of such coordination mechanisms in the near future. Results of the study were presented at a WTO workshop on National and Regional SPS Coordination, held in Geneva, in October 2012.

² The meeting built on a 2010 scoping study entitled "Regional SPS Frameworks and Strategies in Africa", prepared by J. Magalhães for the STDF at the request of the AUC. The report is available on the STDF website.
In collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the OIE, the STDF organized a seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva in July 2012. The seminar was successful in raising awareness about: (i) the mutually supportive objectives of the WTO SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and (ii) the importance of SPS capacity building to establish effective SPS control systems that can help developing countries *inter alia* to protect against the entry of harmful species, including pests, diseases and other IAS.

The STDF initiated work on the interface and linkages between SPS and trade facilitation. This work will analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation, which for the purpose of this work is defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures. The work will involve regional research in Africa, Asia and the Pacific in 2013 to identify, analyse and foster dialogue on experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade.

The STDF has supported the development of a decision-support tool, based on Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), to help developing countries prioritize SPS capacity building options ("investments"), within a context of increasingly scarce resources, and improve the effectiveness of SPS decision-making processes. The MCDA framework was successfully applied in Mozambique and Zambia, in April and July 2011 respectively, and followed by a regional workshop in South Africa, to equip SPS experts from other African countries with knowledge needed to apply this new approach. Work to apply the tool was initiated in 2012 in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi and Uganda, with support from COMESA and USAID.

Three project preparation grants (PPGs) and eight project grants were approved in 2012, bringing the total number of PPGs and projects funded by the STDF by the end of 2012 to 53 and 63, respectively. Of the total number of grants, 52 per cent has been awarded to Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, 11 per cent of projects and PPGs can be classified as global, in which Africa also benefitted. Overall, the STDF has devoted 46 per cent of project resources to least-developed countries (LDCs) and other low-income countries, most of which are in sub-Saharan Africa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Financial resources committed to Africa by the STDF (US$)</th>
<th>Share of overall grants from STDF in value terms</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,629,330</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,216,080</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,928,455</td>
<td>38%</td>
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