1. Although WTO does not yet have a formal cooperation arrangement with NEPAD, it reaches African countries’ needs through its technical assistance (TA) programme. During this period, the WTO continued with its efforts to enhance human and institutional capacity development on multilateral trade issues in Africa. This was channelled through the 2012-2013 TA Plan, which expired in December. Activities for the period January to April 2014 will be conducted under the TA Plan 2014-15.

2. Since July 2013, Africa has benefited from a number of national and regional activities. Over 350 candidates were trained until December 2013, spread over approximately twenty-four activities, held both in Geneva and at various locations in Africa. More activities scheduled at the time of writing will be a combination of national activities on various WTO subjects, regional activities (including the regional trade policy courses -RTPC), and the Advanced Trade Policy Courses for government officials held in Geneva. An estimated total of at least 300 candidates are expected to be trained during this period.

3. The successful outcome of the 9th WTO ministerial meeting, held in Bali, Indonesia, 3 to 7 December 2013, will lead to a post-Bali work programme for WTO Members. Ministers instructed the Trade Negotiations Committee of the WTO to prepare a work program on the remaining Doha Development Agenda issues within twelve months. This work program should build on the decisions taken at the ministerial meeting, particularly on agriculture, development and LDC issues, as well as all other issues under the Doha mandate that are central to concluding the negotiations. It is likely that a number of TA activities would focus on the issues surrounding this work programme, as well as on the newly concluded Trade Facilitation Agreement.

4. 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, which are information points established in developing and least-developed countries for the depository of trade-related information and its dissemination to national stakeholders, would continue to be upgraded in 2014. In the period up to December 2013, 73% of the Reference Centre installations and upgrades were done in Africa.

5. Increased Secretariat support has continued to be provided to the WTO African Group in Geneva. The WTO African Group, which comprises African Ambassadors to the WTO in Geneva, is an informal forum at the WTO in which African countries prepare their positions on WTO-related issues. It is, therefore, an important platform for reflection and position building on multilateral trade policy issues for African countries. This was especially important in the preparations for the 9th Ministerial meeting.
6. WTO technical assistance 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 weeks of briefings known as the "Geneva Week".

7. African countries continue to be major beneficiaries 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. The same priority to Africa applies for the Mission Internship Programme (MIP), which sponsors the attachment of officials to their Geneva resident missions. In 2013, seven of the nineteen candidates admitted to the MIP were from Africa. In the NTP, ten of the fifteen candidates accepted were from Africa. For 2014, the NTP programme, which will commence in April, will have ten out of a total of seventeen candidates from African countries. In the MIP, for the first 6 months of 2013, six out of a total of seventeen candidates accepted are from Africa. Both the MIP and NTP have allowed African officials to further develop their capacity on trade issues, which has enhanced the human and institutional capacity development of their countries.

8. The WTO and NEPAD have had some preliminary discussions on a possible collaborative relationship. This envisages focused training by the 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.

1 AID FOR TRADE

9. Although many donor countries are facing fiscal and economic difficulties, the international community continues to mobilize Aid for Trade resources. Aid for Trade commitments in 2011 reached approximately US$41.5 billion, a decline (of 14%) compared to 2010, but representing a 57% increase from the 2002-05 baseline period. Total Aid-for-Trade support to Africa amounted to US$13.1 billion. While this is a drop of 29% over 2010, this figure represents a 65% increase from the 2002-05 average. Africa has nine countries on the list of top 20 Aid-for-Trade recipients – Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zambia – which received 40% of the total Aid for Trade support to Africa in 2011. Aid for Trade continues to contribute to the promotion of regional integration in Africa through multi-county programmes, such as cross border infrastructure and support for regional trade agreements.

10. The Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade: "Connecting to Value Chains" (8-10 July 2013), provided an opportunity to examine strategies to connect developing country and LDC firms to international value chains and how to move up the value chain, and discussed the associated development benefits in the context of the debate about the post-2015 development agenda. Several dedicated plenary sessions and a number of side events at the Review focused in particular on Africa. The Review was underpinned by a joint OECD and WTO monitoring exercise which, for the first time, was extended to the private sector. The exercise focused particularly on African countries and LDCs. The WTO also worked closely with the AU Commission and UNECA with regard to their regional and complementary monitoring exercise, conducted in support of the AU decision on boosting intra-African trade.

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1 Information on the Fourth Global Review, including publications and reports, can be found at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/aid4trade_e.htm
11. At WTO's 9th Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, WTO Ministers welcomed progress on Aid for Trade, took note of the deliberations and outcomes of the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, and recognized the continuing need of Aid for Trade for developing countries, and in particular LDCs. They reaffirmed their commitment to Aid for Trade, reiterated the mandate given to the WTO Director-General to pursue actions in support of Aid for Trade, and noted that the new Aid for Trade Work Programme should be framed by the post-2015 development agenda. A new 2014-2015 Aid for Trade work programme will consider Aid for Trade in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda, and will focus on issues including trade facilitation, trade finance, labour skills, investment environment, and infrastructure.

2 THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

12. 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 as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets. This work contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. Established by the UN 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), the STDF is financed by voluntary contributions.

13. In 2013, the STDF continued to identify and disseminate experiences and good practices in SPS capacity-building in Africa, including through close interaction with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), the AU Commission and its specialized bodies, as well as several Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The STDF initiated research work in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation (including Annex C of the WTO SPS Agreement). The aim is 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, while minimizing trade transaction costs. The work is carried out in collaboration with Trade Mark Southern Africa and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA). Preliminary results of this work, including results of similar work in Asia and Latin America, will be presented to Members on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee meetings in March 2014.

14. In June 2013, the STDF, in conjunction with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat and the OIE, presented an STDF study on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS). The study reviews and analyses key concepts and principles relevant to IAS and international trade in the context of the WTO SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and in relation to the two relevant standard-setting organizations under the SPS Agreement (IPPC and OIE). It also considers various initiatives to enhance capacities for managing the entry and spread of IAS (such as regional approaches to control water hyacinth in Lake Victoria or to control the spread of the fruit fly in West Africa), reviews common challenges and good practices, and makes a number of targeted recommendations.

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2 For more information, go to www.enhancedif.org.
Also in June 2013, the STDF organized a workshop on the use of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) tool, which helps developing countries prioritizing options to strengthen SPS capacity for market access. Participants took stock of experiences and lessons learned in the application of the tool (the framework was applied through the STDF in Mozambique and Zambia and with the support of COMESA and USDA/USAID in Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles and Uganda). They also identified recommendations for future work, including; (i) revising the existing MCDA user guide and make it more user-friendly, including through the incorporation of country case studies and examples; (ii) promoting greater use of the MCDA tool as part of national/regional planning and priority-setting processes; and (iii) monitoring and evaluating the on-going use of the tool to learn from and disseminate the experience and lessons.

At the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, the STDF, in collaboration with Canada and the Netherlands, held a side-event on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in a Value Chain Context. Work undertaken by the North-South Institute (NSI) of Canada and by the STDF on trade- and SPS-related PPPs was presented and fostered a dialogue among public and private sector experts on key lessons learned in this area.

Eight project preparation grants (PPGs) and four project grants were approved in 2013, bringing the total number of PPGs and projects funded by the STDF by the end of 2013 to 60 and 66, respectively. Of the total number of grants, 52 per cent has been awarded to Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, 10 per cent of projects and PPGs can be classified as global, in which Africa also benefitted. Overall, the STDF has devoted 54 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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,290,602</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,228,538</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,924,720</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,308,804</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK (EIF)

Rise in projects on the ground

In this period, EIF Tier 1 projects to address all constraints to trade, economic growth and sustainable development, increased from twenty-nine, at the end of 2010, to forty-six by early 2014. These Tier 1 projects are comprised of institutional capacity-building support and Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS).

Ten additional Tier 2 projects were also approved increasing the number of Tier 2 projects from only one, at the end of 2011, to twenty-four. These include projects in four African countries: promoting the Arabic gum sector in Chad; improving export competitiveness of vanilla, ylang ylang and cloves in Comoros; commercialization and adding value to mango and mango products in Guinea; and improving competitiveness of the hides and skins value chain in Niger. In the pipeline, there are over twenty-four Tier 2 projects with the majority from Africa. These are of a varied nature, depending on national priorities and ranging from value chain support, such as in agriculture and services, to cross-cutting areas facilitating trade. Out
of the thirty-three African EIF countries, twenty-three have had trade mainstreamed in their national development plans.

**Monitoring, evaluation and capacity building**

20. Thirty six EIF Countries implementing Tier 1 projects have not only operationalized results-based management through their Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) frameworks, but have also put in place the required reporting tools. Building on this, during 2013, tailored capacity building programmes to support M&E, results reporting and communications were rolled out for eleven English-speaking African EIF Countries and Yemen, with Cambodia participating as part of the global experience sharing initiative kick-started by the EIF. At the country's request, an additional communication training intended for EIF stakeholders was delivered in Burkina Faso at the end of 2013. Two regional workshops on gender mainstreaming and M&E, results reporting and communications for fifteen French and Portuguese-speaking African countries and Haiti were organized in Togo in March 2014.

**Global Events**

21. The EIF actively participated in the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade. On the first day of the Global Review, the WTO Director-General hosted an EIF Heads of Agency Meeting, during which the Agency Heads recommitted their agencies to helping the world's poorest communities, mainly in Africa, to get much more from the global trading networks, as the international community moves to a post-2015 development agenda.

22. The EIF also joined the Government of Cape Verde in hosting a Cape Verde Roundtable on "Growth and Poverty Reduction through Transformation and Global Integration," as well as co-organizing with the World Intellectual Property Organization, an event on "Making Money out of Music: the Cape Verde experience".

23. Throughout the Global Review, the EIF also held an "EIF LDCs Trade Exhibition" for participants to promote LDC products and the case stories and value chain processes behind their production, with support of the EIF and partners. Twelve of the fourteen participating EIF countries were from Africa.

24. At the fourth annual meeting of the Steering Committee, the Global Trading Stories film was screened following its premier at the EIF Heads of Agency Meeting. The film includes stories from Burundi, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. Prizes to the winners of the "EIF LDC Photo Competition" (Benin, Senegal, Cabo Verde and The Gambia), were presented by the EIF Steering Committee and Board Chairs. The newly revamped EIF website, [www.enhancedif.org](http://www.enhancedif.org) was also launched at the fourth annual Steering Committee Meeting.

25. On the margins of the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, the EIF organized a Ministerial Breakfast Meeting, during which Ministers and other Heads of Delegation of LDCs and Donor countries to the EIF underlined the relevance of the EIF for the trade and economic priorities of LDCs as confirmed by the mid-term review in 2012. Ministers from Burundi and Liberia were part of a panel which shared country experiences during the meeting. Sweden

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3 The Gambia, Liberia, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
4 Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, CAR, Chad, DRC, Djibouti, Guinéa Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, São Tomé and Principe, Senegal, and Togo.
announced its new pledge of US$3million to the EIF for 2014, while Denmark, the European Union, Finland and the United States of America also expressed their continued support for the programme. The Trading Stories book, which accompanies the film series showing how trade can act local to go global in eight EIF Countries, was also officially released.