



WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



16 May 2002

**WTO Doha Development Agenda Trade-Related Technical Assistance  
and Capacity Building Database (DDADB)  
Request for Information**

To: WTO Members providers of TRTA and CB<sup>1</sup>  
DAC Ministers, Heads of Aid Agencies and Permanent Delegates<sup>2</sup>  
Participants at the Joint DAC/IAWG meeting in Paris, 17-18 January 2002<sup>3</sup>  
Network of DAC-CRS Statistical Correspondents<sup>4</sup>  
Multilateral Agencies and Regional Banks<sup>5</sup>

The purpose of this letter is to request your support in providing information on trade-related technical assistance/capacity building activities (TRTA/CB) for the WTO Doha Development Agenda TRTA and CB Database, jointly established with the OECD. This letter presents the policy context for this work, describes the type of information that is sought and gives the timetable for completing the work. Additional information is annexed on the methodology and the working definitions to be used for data collection, and the framework within which the information should be provided.

As you may know, the Doha Declaration stresses the importance of “well-targeted, sustainably financed, technical assistance and capacity building programmes” and reiterates the commitment of WTO Members to help the weakest among them to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system. The trade and development communities recognise the urgency of scaling-up TRTA/CB activities and in co-ordinating this effectively with the multilateral agencies. The WTO Director-General will present a progress report to the WTO General Council in December 2002 on the “implementation and adequacy” of TRTA/CB efforts. A more comprehensive report will go to the WTO Ministerial in 2003.

Agencies and country providers, meeting in three formal Working Group meetings, for this database, have agreed to the purposes/objectives as follows:

- (i) transparency of TRTA delivered;
- (ii) exchange and sharing of information;
- (iii) minimization and/or avoidance of duplication;
- (iv) estimation of progress in the implementation of the Doha Mandates on technical cooperation and capacity building;
- (v) coordination and coherence; and
- (vi) meeting the objectives of the report mandated in para.41 of the Doha Declaration.

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<sup>1</sup> See list in Appendix 1

<sup>2</sup> See list in Appendix 2

<sup>3</sup> See list in Appendix 3

<sup>4</sup> See list in Appendix 4

<sup>5</sup> See list in Appendix 5

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The database will provide a snapshot of information for the period 2001-2002 and therefore provide timely and current information for the progress report to the WTO General Council at the end of 2002. It will subsequently be updated for the WTO Ministerial and beyond.

Data will be collected from DAC Members, intergovernmental organizations and regional banks active in the area of TRTA/CB, and from other countries which provide TRTA and CB. Reporting will be through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD, based on existing and new codes to include categories not currently covered. By including trade-related activities in the CRS coding system, we are ensuring that the database can be useful in the long term and that information can be retrieved and analysed at any moment.

The activity has very high priority in the OECD and the WTO and needs to be carried out within a short timeframe. We need your help in obtaining data on trade-related activities committed in 2001 and up to July 2002. Indications of activities planned, especially for the remainder of 2002 and beyond would be appreciated.

In addition, we include a short survey form to collect forward-looking information on strategies delivery mechanisms and institutional arrangements for TRTA/CB. Response to this survey form is discretionary. However, availability of this information will enable donors, international organisations and regional banks to have their plans beyond 2002 reflected in the WTO General Council and other discussions.

In order to carry out this exercise, it is essential that a staff member who handles the trade capacity building portfolio, or who is familiar with the WTO agenda, be given responsibility for providing this information. It will in all cases be important that there is close co-operation between the statistical correspondents, who are familiar with the CRS data, and those responsible for trade capacity building. We would request that you provide the names of those who have been given this responsibility by **31 May 2002**.

Intergovernmental organisations and regional banks providing trade-related capacity building and new donors currently not observers of the DAC are requested to provide the names of focal points and information to Ms Susan Harrison, Technical Cooperation Division, WTO, [susan.harrison@wto.org](mailto:susan.harrison@wto.org).

DAC/OECD members and observers are requested to provide the names and information to Mr Rudolphe Petras, Development Co-operation Directorate, at the OECD, [rudolphe.petras@oecd.org](mailto:rudolphe.petras@oecd.org).

All replies to the questionnaire should be sent **preferably before and no later than 31 July** to [rudolphe.petras@oecd.org](mailto:rudolphe.petras@oecd.org) and [susan.harrison@wto.org](mailto:susan.harrison@wto.org).



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