

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL WTO TBT/SPS ENQUIRY POINT**

Project proposal

Submission by Malawi

**I. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

1. Malawi is one of the countries, which is a signatory to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the World Trade Organization (WTO). In realising its role to fulfil the requirements of the WTO Agreements, the Malawi Government in January 1996 appointed Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) as the Enquiry Point for the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). This is in line with the requirement contained in paragraph 3 of Article 10 of the WTO Agreement on TBT, which calls for establishment of Enquiry Points in member countries.

2. In one of its roles as an Enquiry Point, in June 1996, MBS, in conjunction with the International Trade Centre (ITC) of Geneva and the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, organized a one-day workshop on the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on TBT and SPS. The workshop resolved and recommended to Malawi Government that Malawi Bureau of Standards' existing facilities needed strengthening for it to cope with the additional function of an Enquiry Point. As an Enquiry Point, MBS shall be a repository of a collection of documents and information in respect of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures for Malawi, as well as other information from member nations of WTO. The Malawi Bureau of Standards shall also need to have the capacity to respond to enquiries from other WTO Members regarding the TBT Agreement, as well as providing relevant information locally on the same.

3. Currently, MBS has a small technical paper library, which accommodates national, foreign national, regional and international standards, as well as other publications. The library receives over 10,000 documents in a year. The library space is however limited. In addition to the paper library, some documents, mainly national standards, are stored and retrieved on three old (outdated) IBM computers. The three computers are proving to be a problem because of frequent breakdowns and lack of spare parts. In some instances, information has been lost or unable to be accessed. Due to expansion of MBS activities, including the recent role as a WTO-TBT Enquiry Point, the three computers are inadequate. The computers also process data slowly, rendering computer services ineffective and inefficient.

4. For a functional and operational Enquiry Point, in addition to the provision of library space, there is need to acquire two computers linked to electronic mail (E-mail), and also a fax machine. These facilities will ease information storage and retrieval and will enable a more rapid response to TBT enquiries. The personnel responsible for the Enquiry Point need exposure and training which would probably be acquired from already existing and functional enquiry points of other WTO members. Services of a consultant shall also be needed in the setting up of the Enquiry Point

establishment of the notification mechanism and in the implementation of information services to disseminate information related to the TBT Agreement to clients, such as local exporters on standards, technical regulations and other relevant information in target markets.

5. Failure to set up an efficient and effective Enquiry Point shall mean the country being left out in benefiting in World Trade due to the inability to communicate effectively with other WTO Members. This may result in having a negative effect on the economy of the country.

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Project title	:	Establishment of National WTO TBT/SPS Enquiry Point
Issue number	:	PP/S/2/04
Issue date	:	2001-01-10
Responsible Ministry	:	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Project Officer	:	Director-General, Malawi Bureau of Standards

**II. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the project proposal are as follows:

1. To set up a WTO Enquiry Point on Technical Barriers to Trade with facilities for storage and retrieval of information on technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment procedures and related information.
2. To create a data bank in the paper library and computers on technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures.
3. To establish a notification mechanism and train personnel of MBS on the efficient and effective running of the Enquiry Pont.
4. To sensitise and encourage Government Ministries/Departments, Organisations and general public in Malawi through national workshops and media campaigns on the existence and utilization of the Enquiry Point.

**III. PROJECT LIFE**

Two years.

**IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS**

The following outputs are expected during and at the end of the project:

1. A functional and operational Enquiry Point on TBT.

2. A collection of all existing technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures in appropriate formats (i.e. paper documents and computer information).
3. Qualified and well oriented and trained personnel manning the Enquiry Point.
4. Effective awareness of the general public, Organization and Government, Ministries and Departments on benefits of utilising the Enquiry Point.

#### **V. PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

1. Procurement delivery and installation of computers and their accessories for the Enquiry Point.
2. Providing library space to accommodate paper documents.
3. Training personnel in storage and retrieval of information and answering enquiries.
4. Entering information on technical regulations, standards, etc. into computers.
5. Classifying and storing paper documents on technical regulations, standards, etc. in the library.
6. Undertaking fellowships and study tours to other National Enquiry Points by project personnel.
7. Organizing and conducting national workshops and media campaigns on WTO Agreement on TBT.

#### **VI. SUSTAINABILITY**

Activities of the Enquiry Point shall be financially sustained after the project period in the following ways:

1. Governments take over by incorporating the activities in the annual budget of Malawi Bureau of Standards.
2. Use of resources, which are generated from the already existing activities of the the Malawi Bureau of Standards.

#### **VII. PROJECT COSTS (US DOLLARS)**

<b>External inputs</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Computer, fax machine and accessories	5,000	-	5,000
2. Fellowships and study tours	10,000	-	10,000
3. Technical Consultant	8,000	4,000	12,000
4. National workshops	3,000	4,000	7,000
5. Media campaigns	2,000	2,000	4,000
6. Library	10,000	-	10,000

7.	Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000	4,000
	<b>Total External Inputs</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>
A.	LOCAL INPUTS			
1.	<b>Personnel</b>			
	1 x Information Officer	2,000	3,000	5,000
	1 x Library Assistant	1,000	2,000	3,000
2.	Vehicle running expenses for Workshops and other duties	2,000	2,000	4,000
3.	Office equipment and Stationery	5,000	6,000	11,000
4.	Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000	4,000
	<b>Total Local Inputs</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>79,000</b>

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