

**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM NORWAY**

Communication by Norway

The following communication, received on 29 September 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Norway.

1. Norway contributes to many projects in developing countries aiming to support food security and safety and to promote international trade. Some of these projects have a major SPS and/or TBT component. Due to the scale and scope of some of the projects, and due to funding through multilateral channels, the SPS component is not always easy to track. Some examples can, however, be given.

**I. AID FOR TRADE ACTION PLAN**

2. Market access is not sufficient for integrating the developing countries into the multilateral trading system. On this background, Norway launched in November 2007 a plan of action on "Aid for trade" where additional funds have been allocated. The three key thematic areas are:

- (a) good governance and the fight against corruption (including standards and trade);
- (b) women and trade;
- (c) regional trade alternative.

3. Standards and trade are among the priority areas. Priority is given to Africa and the least-developed countries. The funds will be channelled mostly through multilateral organizations, primarily UNIDO, the WTO and to a certain extent, the multi-agency Standards and Trade Development Facility.

**II. DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA GLOBAL TRUST FUND**

4. Norway is a firm supporter of the technical assistance and training programme through our annual contribution to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund. The WTO and its Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation contributes substantially to the efforts being made in order to help integrate the developing countries into the multilateral trading system, also in the field of SPS-related technical assistance.

### III. STANDARD DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (STDF)

5. With effect of 4 December 2007, Norway entered into an agreement with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) (to contribute 1 million Norwegian Kroner (NOK)).

### IV. ASIA

6. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) supports the three countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam., through the **UNIDO Mekong Delta Regional Project**:

- (a) Phase I (2003-2006) focused on infrastructure mapping and needs assessment for laying the foundation of standards, metrology, testing and quality institutional structures and national capacities (SMTQ) (NOK 8 million);
- (b) Phase II (2006-2008) concentrates on development and strengthening of new and existing physical conformity infrastructure; further extensive training and securing of national training capabilities on the various standards involved in the main identified export industries; ensuring regional and international credibility of the conformity infrastructure; and development of operational TBT and SPS enquiry points in each country. Phase II builds on the progress in the first phase towards helping the countries of the region to participate in global trade and conform to WTO requirements. The programme is being further extended with an extra visit by Norwegian Accreditation in order to confirm accreditation (NOK 12 million).

7. The European Union and Norway are funding **Bangladesh Quality Support Programme** through institutional strengthening of, i.e., the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and by establishing a National Certification Body for ISO-9001, ISO-14001 and HACCP. The programme also involves consumer associations in standard setting and market surveillance. (Norway's share is 10 per cent; NOK 7 million for the years 2006-2009).

8. Since 2003 Norway has supported a UNIDO project for SAARC LDCs; Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives entitled "**Market Access and Trade Facilitation Support for South Asian LDCs through strengthening of institutional and national capacities related to standards, metrology, testing and quality (SMTQ)**". The goal has been to develop the capacity within ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and HACCP (NOK 7.6 million for the years 2004-2007).

9. An Agreement for Phase II of this project was signed in September 2007, with the total amount of NOK 18.0 million for the years 2007-2010. The objective of this project is to build upon the achievements of the earlier phase. In so doing, it seeks to facilitate the industrial development and export capabilities, and consequently to spur the economic growth of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives, by reducing technical barriers to trade through the strengthening of institutional structures and national capacities in standards, metrology, testing, quality and conformity assessment. This project also aims to protect domestic society against sub-standard and hazardous product imports. The needs of the four SAARC LDCs under the project will be addressed separately due to the diversity of these needs in the area of SMTQ as well as their socio-economic circumstances.

10. As a continuation of previous support for UNIDO's SMTQ projects, Norway supports "**Strengthening International certification capability in Sri Lanka**" with particular reference to Social Accountability standard (SA8000) and Food Safety (HACCP/ISO 22000) standard. An independent private sector-driven certification body established with capacity to provide certification services for HACCP/ISO 22000, SA 8000, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, the Government counterparts being Ministry of Industrial Development and Ministry of Science and Technology. (NOK 5.0 million for the years 2006-2008).

11. Long term cooperation between Norwegian Accreditation (NA) and Pakistani National Accreditation (PNAC) has been established within the framework agreement "**Institutional cooperation**" between Norway and Pakistan. This cooperation was approved in July 2005 for three years with a total budget of NOK 3 million. The institutional cooperation between NA and PNAC aims at competence and capacity building in certifying laboratories according to ISO standards, and at helping PNAC to receive internationally-recognized accreditation standard.

12. Support is also provided to the South Asia Enterprise Development Facility in reducing commercial barriers between India and Bangladesh and support to the export industry in Bangladesh to comply with standards and demands for decent working conditions.

## V. AFRICA

13. NORAD has signed a new agreement with UNIDO regarding support for a regional programme in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) – "**Trade Capacity Building in Agro-industry products in East Africa**" with a total amount of NOK 15.0 million for the years 2006-2009. The goal of the programme is to build trade capacity in agro-industry products for the establishment and proof of compliance with international market requirements. The regional counterpart is the East African Community's Secretariat in Arusha.

14. The project will also include Rwanda and Burundi and an additional amount of NOK 10 million has been approved.

15. NORAD has in principle agreed to finance a **Pilot Project for promotion of GlobalGAP** standards in Uganda. The total amount is NOK 2.0 million for the period 2007-2009.

16. As a follow up and implementation of the NORAD financed study "**Development of an export oriented meat industry in Uganda**", there is now being planned extensive support for public-private partnership (PPP) aiming at developing institutional infrastructure for meat export. The budget is soon to be developed.

17. Norway supported the establishment of the **Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS)** with NOK 13 million for the period 2007-2011, in order to reduce barriers to trade and improve market access on goods from Southern Africa. This follows Norwegian support of NOK 2.7 million donated during the project's preparatory phase from 2003 to 2006.

18. NORAD has in principle agreed to finance a **Joint UNIDO-WTO Trade Capacity Building Programme for Zambia** with a total amount of NOK 16.5 million for the years 2008 - 2011. Based on Zambian priorities as reflected in the country's Fifth National Development Plan 2006-2010, UNIDO has developed a draft Project Document for a UNIDO-WTO Trade Capacity Building Project with the following immediate objectives:

- (a) review and provide input to the Government of Zambia (Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry) to amend as necessary the legislative framework surrounding MSTQ and encourage a quality culture in Zambia;
- (b) strengthen national institutions for conformity assessment;
- (c) strengthen the Zambian Quality Chain with regard to testing and export certification of products in selected sectors;
- (d) enhance the trade policy and negotiations capabilities of the Government of Zambia and involve the private sector in trade negotiations.

19. NORAD has agreed to finance a UNIDO Study on private standards and publication of a "**Guide to Private Standards**" for the year 2008 with an amount of NOK 1.6 million. The immediate objectives are:

- (a) publish and widely disseminate the "Guide to Private Standards" for selected manufacturing sectors and draw attention to their implications for developing country exporters;
- (b) UNIDO PTC branches will identify further venues for cooperation with leading private sector firms in targeted international value chains and improve design of technical assistance projects for capacity building. A review of harmonization efforts will be undertaken and possibilities of UNIDO acting as a broker will be assessed.

20. NORAD has agreed to finance **UNIDO's Annual Trade Compliance Report** for the year 2008 with an amount of NOK 1.8 million. UNIDO tracks on a continual basis exports by developing countries that are rejected by the recipient country due to lack of compliance to standards and/or requirements, and the resulting loss of revenue for the countries/exporters in question. The publication will be an integrated part of UNIDO's initiative for "Enabling Developing Countries to participate in International Trade – Strengthening the supply capacity". The publication will be useful both for policy makers and trade associations/industrial organizations.

## **VI. WESTERN BALKANS**

21. Norway made a contribution of USD >2 million to a technical assistance programme on **international regulations and standards** for the Private Enterprise Partnership for South East Europe (PEP-SE). The Administration Agreement was signed on 27 September 2007 between the International Finance Corporation and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **VII. CODEX TRUST FUND**

22. Norway is a contributor to the **FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund**. The goal of the Codex Trust Fund is to further the improvement of global public health and food security by promoting the provision of safer and more nutritious food and contributing to a reduction in food-borne disease.

23. The Fund's main objective is to help developing countries and those with economies in transition to enhance their level of effective participation in the development of global food safety and quality standards by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

## **VIII. BIOSAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING**

24. On the multilateral level, Norway allocates annually funds to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This contribution is not earmarked, thus an exact figure for **Biosafety Capacity Building** is not possible to report.

25. Many delegates from developing countries have attended the annual GenØk-course in Tromsø. The Norwegian Government is finalizing a new, 5-year framework agreement with GenØk. The International Biosafety course "**Holistic Foundations for Assessment and Regulation of Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms**" will alternate every second year with a Specialist Course conducted back-to-back with an International Scientific Conference. A regional course will also be conducted annually, the next in Africa. New as of 2008 is funding for research cooperation under the Gateways umbrella where GenØk of Norway, NISIR of Zambia and NIES/SEPA of China are the research institutions involved. The cooperation will include both exchange of personnel and joint research projects.

26. Biodiversity is one of the pillars of the **Environmental Cooperation Agreement** for 2005-2010 between South Africa and Norway. One of the projects under the Biodiversity theme is Biosafety, involving a range of ministries, departments, Biosafety research institutes and universities in both countries. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the establishment of a system for assessment of the impact of GMOs released into the environment (in South Africa). The project will aim to improve the tools for conducting research, monitoring and assessments on environmental impacts and to improve Biosafety management and research capacity in South Africa.

#### **IX. THIRD WORLD NETWORK**

27. Norway will further emphasize the importance of civil society participation, including competence building among civil society participants. Norway has chosen Third World Network (TWN) as our International NGO partner because:

- (a) TWN has an extensive network of partner NGOs in developing countries;
  - (b) the organization is acting as an adviser to the Secretariat through the Liaison Group on Capacity Building for Biosafety;
  - (c) the organization is based in a developing country, and it is not one of the NGOs of the "north" speaking on behalf of civil society in developing countries.
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