

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects
of Intellectual Property Rights**

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Addendum

International Monetary Fund

At its meeting of 24 May 1995, the Council for TRIPS agreed to request certain intergovernmental organizations to provide information on their technical and financial cooperation programmes in the area of intellectual property relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement (IP/C/M/2, paragraph 53).

This addendum reproduces the information which has been received from the International Monetary Fund in response to this request.

In the accompanying letter, dated 16 August 1995, by which the information was communicated, it is pointed out that various aspects of the Fund's technical assistance can be thought to be trade-related, but that it is difficult to identify specific involvement in trade matters, this all the more being the case for TRIPS.

International Monetary Fund
Trade Policy-Related Technical Assistance

The Fund has provided its member countries with technical assistance and training in economic and financial matters almost since its inception. Although interlinked, the Fund's technical assistance can be grouped into five broad categories:

- (i) to advise on the design and implementation of policy measures;
- (ii) to support institution building;
- (iii) to improve the quality and timeliness of statistical information;
- (iv) to train officials; and
- (v) to review and help draft legislation.

This can take many forms, ranging from yearly Article IV consultations and the design of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes to setting up a tax-payer identification system. As technical assistance is an integral part of Fund policy dialogue with its member countries, its scope in the Fund goes far beyond tasks specifically indicated under this heading.

Technical assistance can be provided by Fund staff on missions or by Fund staff and outside experts on specific technical assistance missions in response to specific requests by members, or by courses at the IMF Institute. It can vary from a mission of a few days to a year or two secondment to a ministry. Assistance may relate to a whole range of subjects, including economic policy, balance-of-payments adjustments programmes, tax, government expenditure and budgetary policies, legal matters, debt management, exchange and trade issues, financial sector topics, accounting, statistics and data processing. Since 1990 specific technical assistance activities have risen by 75 per cent, from 170 person-years in 1990 to an estimated 299 in 1994/95 (see *table*). Support for the assistance has come from the Fund's own resources and from donors. The Fund has also recently established a Framework Account for technical assistance to handle donor funds for this purpose.

The main areas of the Fund's specific technical assistance¹ are close to its mandate as guardian of the world's monetary system. Most activities have been related to monetary and exchange rate issues (130), fiscal policies (98), macro-economic statistics (41), training courses in macro-economics (15), legal issues related mainly to monetary and fiscal policies (9) or computer services related to central bank or fiscal management (7). There is no specific programme on trade policy-related technical assistance. Trade policy issues can, however, be part of either the general policy dialogue in Fund programmes² or consultations, or can come up, for example, in the context of fiscal issues in areas such as tax policy, customs management or rationalization of subsidies. Awareness among Fund staff of Uruguay Round-related policy commitments of its members has been increased since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. The implications of the Uruguay Round are also frequently discussed in the general policy dialogue with members.

¹Estimated person-years 1994/95 are in brackets.

²Trade policies were part of conditionality in about half of the 59 programmes studied recently by the Fund.

Technical Assistance Delivery
(in person-years)

	1992/93 Actual	1993/94 Actual	1994/95 Estimate
<u>Fund technical assistance budget</u>	<u>188.8</u>	<u>194.0</u>	<u>217.3</u>
Staff	90.0	100.9	109.8
Headquarters-based consultants	21.2	20.5	22.6
Experts	77.6	72.6	84.9
<u>External technical assistance resources</u>	<u>55.0</u>	<u>68.6</u>	<u>81.9</u>
UNDP	28.9	19.3	17.5
Japan	20.3	40.1	52.0
Other	5.8	9.2	12.4
<u>Total technical assistance resources</u>	<u>243.8</u>	<u>262.6</u>	<u>299.2</u>
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<u>Total resources provided, by department</u>			
Monetary and Exchange Affairs Department	96.8	105.7	130.3
Fiscal Affairs Department	82.5	94.8	97.5
Statistics Department	40.5	35.5	40.8
IMF Institute	11.2	13.0	14.8
Legal Department	7.7	7.5	9.0
Other	5.0	6.0	6.6
<u>Total regional use by department</u>	<u>242.9</u>	<u>243.3</u>	<u>273.7</u>
African	71.0	63.8	61.9
Central Asia	24.6	25.6	26.3
European I	24.3	24.6	27.4
European II	60.2	65.9	77.2
Middle Eastern	10.6	11.5	18.9
South East Asia and pacific	17.8	15.6	24.8
Western Hemisphere	34.4	30.9	29.0
Fund (interregional)	--	5.4	5.6
Unallocated reserves	--	--	2.6
<u>Non-regional use</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>25.5</u>
<u>Total technical assistance resources</u>	<u>243.8</u>	<u>262.6</u>	<u>299.2</u>