

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/COMTD/W/16/Add.1

1 October 1996

(96-3918)

**Committee on Trade and Development**  
**Eleventh Session**  
**4 October 1996**

IMPLEMENTATION OF URUGUAY ROUND PROVISIONS  
IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

This document contains additional information received since document WT/COMTD/W/16 was issued.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)</b>	
Allow a reasonable interval between the publication and entry into force of a technical regulation and requirements concerning conformity assessment procedures (Art. 2:12, 5:9).	
The Secretariat is to draw the attention to notifications relating to products of particular interest to developing countries (LDCs) (Art. 10:6).	
Advice on the preparation of technical regulations, upon request (Art. 11:1).	According to a formal decision by the TBT Committee, specific needs for technical assistance, as well as information that may be provided by potential donor Members on their technical assistance programmes, may be communicated to Members through the Secretariat and on an informal basis, if so agreed. Even if the information was multilateralized in this manner, technical assistance would continue to be provided on a bilateral basis. Technical assistance would remain an item of the agenda of the TBT Committee on a permanent basis, and would be included in the agenda of a regular meeting of the Committee upon request.
Advice and assistance for the establishment of national standardizing bodies and the participation in international standardizing bodies, upon request (Art. 11:2).	
Advice and assistance for the establishment of regulatory bodies or bodies for the assessment of conformity with technical regulations, and on the methods to best meet technical regulations, upon request (Art. 11:3).	
Advice and assistance for the establishment of bodies for the assessment of conformity with standards, upon request (Art. 11:4).	In May, a Seminar on Implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on TBT was organized by the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation for its members, in which the Secretariat had been invited to participate.
Advice and assistance on the steps to be taken to have access to systems for conformity assessment, upon request (Art. 11:5).	

<sup>1</sup>Replies have also been received from the Chairmen of the Committee on Rules of Origin, the Committee on Market Access and the Council for Trade in Goods. These however have not been listed in this document due to the fact that the Chairmen reported an absence of discussions relevant to the Committee's exercise.

Provision	Implementation
<p>Assistance in ensuring that preparation and application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles to exports (Art. 12:7).</p>	<p>The Secretariat has been exploring the possibility of organizing specialized technical assistance seminars on a sub-regional basis, possibly jointly with the International Standards Organization and International Trade Centre. The goal of the seminars would be threefold: to provide technical assistance to new Members, to help build human and institutional resources, and to help Member governments, as well as producers and exporters, particularly from LDCs, to benefit fully from the TBT Agreement. Two seminars of this kind have been planned for 1996, one for the southern African countries in November and one for the central American countries in December.</p> <p>The Secretariat is also looking into the possibilities of coordinating its technical assistance activities with Members and other international and regional intergovernmental bodies which are planning to provide technical assistance. In that regard, the Secretariat participated in a technical assistance seminar being organised by the Organization of American States in September.</p>
<p>Consideration of special needs of LDCs in the implementation and operation of the Agreement (Art. 12:2).</p>	
<p>Consideration of special needs of LDCs in the preparation and application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures (Art. 12:3, 12:9).</p>	
<p>Facilitation of participation of relevant bodies in LDCs in international standardizing bodies and international systems for conformity assessment (Art. 12:5).</p>	
<p>Examination by international standardizing bodies of the possibility of preparing international standards for products of special interest to LDCs, upon request (Art. 12:6).</p>	
<p>Periodical examination of the special and differential treatment provided to LDCs (Art. 12:10).</p>	<p>The TBT Committee will conduct such an examination on its meeting of 16 October 1996.</p>

Provision	Implementation
<b>Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs)</b>	
Exceptions for LDCs from the prohibition of TRIMs contained in Article 2 (Art. 4).	This provision does not call for any action on the part of the TRIMs Committee.
Members are required to notify any existing TRIMs which are inconsistent with the Agreement within a period of ninety days after the entry into force of the WTO Agreement (Art. 5:1).	For states and separate customs territories eligible to become original Members of WTO that acceded to the WTO after the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, the General Council adopted, in April 1995, a recommendation stating that the 90 days period would start from the date of their acceptance of the WTO Agreement.
Transition period for the elimination of TRIMs inconsistent with the Agreement extended from two years (for developed country Members) to five years for LDC Members and to seven years for least-developed country (LLDC) Members. (Art. 5:2).	Out of the 23 Members who have made notifications of measures under Art. 5:1 - therefore being able to benefit from the transition periods - 22 are LDC Members (no LLDCs).
The Council for Trade in Goods may extend the transition periods upon request by a developing country Member or a least developed country Member (Art. 5:3).	The issue of the possible extension of transition periods by the Council for Trade in Goods has not yet arisen.