

MEA INFORMATION SESSION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENHANCING INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Input from the WTO, UNEP and MEA Secretariats

1. In preparation for the Information Session with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on 13 June 2002, the Secretariats of UNEP, selected intergovernmental organizations and the WTO have prepared this Note, under their own responsibility, on trade-related technical assistance and capacity building activities, as well as enhancing cooperation and information exchange between UNEP, MEAs and the WTO. In addition to the WTO and UNEP, this Note contains input from:

- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;
- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the International Tropical Timber Organization; and
- the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

2. The complete list of intergovernmental organizations invited to participate in the MEA Information Session on 13 June 2002 and to contribute to this Note is contained in the Annex.

I. WTO

3. The WTO Secretariat continues to collaborate closely with the UNEP and MEA Secretariats, as well as other international organizations dealing with trade and environment and trade and development issues, such as UNCTAD. Since 1997, the CTE has held annual MEA Information Sessions, where the UNEP and MEA Secretariats have made presentations on various aspects of their work related to trade. These sessions have greatly contributed to stimulate a constructive, open and informal dialogue between the WTO, trade and environment officials, and intergovernmental organizations. As an input to the MEA Information Session in June 2001, Members requested the Secretariat to prepare a factual paper, in cooperation with UNEP and the MEA Secretariats, on compliance and dispute settlement provisions in the WTO and MEAs (WT/CTE/W/191). This paper built on the information on selected MEAs in WT/CTE/W/160/Rev.1, entitled *Matrix on Trade Measures pursuant to Selected MEAs*.

4. Regional seminars on trade and environment with Government representatives from trade and environment Ministries have been organized by the WTO, with the cooperation, as well as participation, of the Secretariats of UNEP, UNCTAD and MEAs. The presence of these organisations

in WTO regional activities serves to highlight the links between trade, environment and sustainable development, and contributes to enhancing national coordination between trade and environment policymakers. In the Preamble to the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Ministers welcomed the continued cooperation of the WTO with UNEP and other international organizations, and further encouraged efforts to promote cooperation between the WTO and international environmental and developmental organizations, especially in the lead-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In Paragraph 33 of the Doha Declaration, Ministers also recognized the importance of technical assistance and capacity building in the field of trade and the environment to developing countries, in particular the least-developed countries.

5. In keeping with the aim of fostering greater cooperation, the WTO Secretariat has already held three regional seminars in 2002, to be followed by four others later in the year. In this context, cooperation with UNEP, UNCTAD and MEAs is being strengthened. The WTO Secretariat has also begun to organize side events at certain MEA meetings, such as the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. These events target developing country participants with the objective of increasing their level of understanding of the links between WTO rules and work vis-à-vis specific trade-related environmental issues. The first such side event was held at the Second Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF2) in New York on 8 March 2002. A side event was also organized at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Hague on 9 April 2002. Preparations are being finalized to hold side events at the meeting of the COP of the Montreal Protocol in October; the ICCAT Commission meeting in October-November; and COP12 of CITES in November.

II. UNEP

6. The UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) works closely with Governments, national, regional and sub regional institutions — particularly of developing countries and those with economies in transition — to help build capacity for integrating environmental objectives into macro-economic policies, including trade policies.

7. The main objectives are to raise awareness and understanding of the linkages between trade, environment and development, and enable countries to: (i) assess the environmental and development impacts of trade and trade liberalization; (ii) engage effectively in trade and environment negotiations; (iii) formulate and implement mutually supportive policies to meet national obligations under multilateral trade and environment agreements, while also maximizing the net development gains of trade liberalization; and (iv) capture environment-related development opportunities offered by trade and globalization.

8. To accomplish the above, UNEP undertakes national workshops, awareness-raising seminars, training, policy dialogues, and country projects. UNEP/ETB relies on a demand-driven programme of capacity-building activities to support countries in their efforts to integrate environment, trade and development policies, so as to achieve sustainable development. A broad range of tools are applied in processes that involve: (i) extensive multi-stakeholder participation, including an initial needs assessment; (ii) empowerment of local experts and institutions to undertake policy analysis and design; (iii) building capacity for integrated sector-specific assessment of the environmental, and development impacts of trade liberalization and other related policies; and (iv) design of integrated policy responses to meet national trade, environment and development priorities and needs.

9. Over the past four years, UNEP has conducted eleven country-level integrated assessments of the environmental and related development impacts of trade and trade liberalization. The sectors covered were: Agriculture (China, Ecuador and Nigeria); Forest Management (Tanzania); Mining (Chile); Fisheries (Bangladesh, Argentina, Senegal and Uganda); Transportation (India); and Water management (Romania). Based in large part on this experience, UNEP has also developed and

published a number of assessment and policy development tools, such as the *Environmental Impact Assessment Training Resource Manual* and the *Reference Manual on Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies*.

10. UNEP has also established, with UNCTAD, the Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF), as a response to needs expressed by Governments. The CBTF combines the complementary expertise of UNEP and UNCTAD, and provides a framework to implement a coordinated set of activities, such as thematic research, training, country projects and policy dialogue. CBTF projects are designed to promote country ownership, broad stakeholder participation and a learning-by-doing approach to capacity building.

11. UNEP has also made efforts to ensure that MEAs and the WTO agreements work together more effectively and synergistically in pursuit of sustainable development. A series of MEA-WTO meetings, organized back-to-back with meetings of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, has built understanding, cooperation and potential synergies between the two regimes. Collaborative capacity building activities between MEAs and the WTO are being developed. To this end, a UNEP Workshop on Capacity Building on Environment, Trade and Development was held in Geneva in March 2001 to identify joint UNEP-MEA-WTO capacity building activities.

12. In this context, UNEP proposes that Members consider the following initial elements for discussion in the context of exploring procedures and mechanisms to enhance cooperation between UNEP, MEAs and the WTO. UNEP intends to build on these proposals in light of the discussions at the MEA Information Session in the CTE on 13 June. The main objective is to contribute effectively and constructively to the Doha Agenda in order to ensure that the negotiations take into account sustainable development.

- To enhance coordination between the UNEP-UNCTAD-MEA-WTO Secretariats on trade and environment-related technical assistance and capacity building activities, including through the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF), and the WTO Regional Seminars and Side Events at MEA meetings and COPs.
- To continue to organize UNEP expert workshops, in collaboration with the WTO, UNCTAD and MEAs, on specific subjects of relevance to the Doha Agenda, back-to-back with meetings of the Committee on Trade and Environment and its Special Sessions. In this respect, based on the availability of funding, UNEP intends to continue to fund the participation of developing country environmental negotiators. The most recent back-to-back meetings include the Workshop on Fisheries on 15 March 2002 (WT/CTE/W/205), and the Workshop on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building on 19-20 March 2002 (WT/CTE/W/206).
- To establish a mechanism to ensure input from MEAs and UNEP into the ongoing negotiations through, for example, expert consultations involving UNEP and MEAs in the context of the Special Sessions of the CTE. It is clear that, given the complexities of the WTO and MEA regimes, information exchange between the two régimes is essential to building an understanding of the issues involved. For example, the advice and input of MEAs is crucial in determining issues such as legitimate environmental objectives, the necessary tools to achieve them, as well as what constitutes "multilateral" in the environmental context.

13. UNEP appreciates this opportunity to provide its preliminary input to the Committee on Trade and Environment on how to enhance the two-way dialogue between the multilateral environmental and trade systems. UNEP looks forward to discussions at the MEA Information Sessions, as well as the Special Sessions, on how to enhance capacity building activities and information exchange.

III. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)

14. In CITES, trade and economic issues are addressed in the context of the *Strategic Vision* through 2005. This Strategic Vision confirms the recognition by the Parties that sustainable wildlife trade can make a major contribution to securing the broader and not incompatible objectives of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. The work programme, therefore, aims to eliminate the common misconception that CITES is a treaty that bans trade. In this connection, all capacity building activities increasingly reflect the socio-economic as well as biodiversity concerns of CITES.

15. The CITES Secretariat provides assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through activities designed to increase the capacity of the Parties to implement the Convention effectively and efficiently. The Capacity Building Unit coordinates the organization of workshops, seminars, training packages, dissemination of information to the public and technical assistance, and oversees the funding and implementation of CITES projects. The Scientific Support Unit helps Parties to enhance the scientific basis for decision making in CITES through support to the Animals and Plants Committees, management of the Review of Significant Trade process, provision of guidance on determining whether trade is detrimental to the survival of a species, as well as the setting and monitoring of quotas, and further development of species identification manuals.

16. The Legislation and Compliance Unit (through guidance materials, workshops, country visits, etc.) advises Parties on the development of adequate national legislation to implement the Convention, identifies possible violations of the Convention and assists Parties with their wildlife law enforcement efforts, monitors the submission of national annual reports on CITES trade, as well as biennial reports on measures taken to enforce the Convention and liaises with Parties and other partners on trade and economic issues. The Convention Support Unit helps Parties to better understand the Convention, operates the web site, oversees the production and distribution of CITES documentation and provides logistical support to the organization of CITES meetings.

17. The CITES Secretariat has participated in one WTO regional seminar on trade and environment and has expressed interest in working with the WTO Secretariat and other partners to jointly plan and implement similar seminars in the future. In addition, it has welcomed the WTO Secretariat's plans to organize a side event at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 3-15 November 2002). Economic instruments and trade policy also will be the subject of an important discussion paper at CoP12.

18. Current capacity building initiatives within CITES work to enhance the knowledge and skills of management, scientific and enforcement authorities to set and implement wildlife trade policies. This includes the ability to determine which species can be safely traded and at what levels, to monitor trade and to address instances of non-compliance with legal trade requirements. CITES hopes to tap the WTO experience with trade policy review, trade data analysis, economic incentives and market access to further develop its technical assistance and capacity building programme. It also looks forward to opening discussions with WTO on possible joint efforts to identify and/or develop economic approaches for reducing illegal trade.

19. In the area of information exchange and enhanced cooperation, CITES wishes to move beyond the verbal or written exchange of general information. It would like to explore with the WTO the kinds of substantive data that might be shared and concrete activities that could be undertaken jointly. The ongoing Doha negotiations offer a major opportunity for enriching collaboration between CITES and the WTO. Both the environmental and trade regimes would benefit from a two-way dialogue on Paragraphs 31, 32, 33 and 51 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. A

one-sided negotiation process diminishes the cooperation developed thus far and deprives the WTO of the critical input that CITES could provide on the basis of its long experience with, and innovative approaches to, international wildlife trade.

IV. BASEL CONVENTION ON TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL

20. The Basel Convention controls the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes and, to this end, has in place a prior written advance notification system or regime. The notification system is one of the main pillars of the Convention. Its implementation requires the involvement of different stakeholders including customs and other enforcement officers.

21. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is carrying out a project entitled “Pilot Project for the Monitoring and Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes in the Asian Region.” The project focuses on capacity building activities designed to enhance the collection, processing and exchange of information between stakeholders concerning transboundary movements of hazardous wastes covered by the Basel Convention.

22. It aims at matching the needs of all relevant authorities and institutions for:

- improved cooperation and communication among the national authorities of Parties concerning the control of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the prevention of illegal traffic;
- improved cooperation and communication between the Competent Authorities of the Parties to the Convention concerning the control of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the prevention of illegal traffic;
- enhanced capacity, knowledge and experience in enforcing the regulatory regime of the Basel Convention; and
- establishment of cost-effective preventive mechanisms concerning illegal exports of hazardous and other wastes, in comparison to the administrative, legal and other costs involved in the tracking and settlement of cases of illegal traffic, in particular in exporting countries.

23. It is expected that the pilot project will enhance cooperation and improve networking at the national level between Environmental Enforcement Authorities, Customs, Port Authorities, and testing laboratories. At the international level, the activities will improve cooperation between the Parties, the World Customs Organization, Interpol, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in relation to the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the prevention of illegal traffic.

24. The Basel Convention Regional Centres in the Asia/Pacific Region play a critical role in supporting activities to enhance capacity building at the regional level and to promote effective cooperation at the regional level. It is also expected that this pilot project could be replicated in other regions of the world.

V. UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

25. The UNFCCC has no trade-related technical assistance activities.

26. The UNFCCC states that, in their actions to achieve the objective of the Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided by a set of Principles. According to Article 3.5:

"The Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties, thus enabling them to better address the problems of climate change. Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade".

27. There is no other reference to trade obligations set out in the UNFCCC; this reference echoes similar references in WTO agreements.

28. The Kyoto Protocol to the Convention on Climate Change (yet to be ratified) in Article 2 lists some policies and measures for Annex I Parties for achieving quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments, in order to promote sustainable development. According to Article 2.3:

"The Parties included in Annex I shall strive to implement policies and measures under this Article in such a way as to minimise adverse effects, including the adverse effects of climate change, effects on international trade, and social, environmental and economic impacts on other Parties, especially developing country Parties and in particular those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention, taking into account Article 3 of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol may take further action, as appropriate, to promote the implementation of the provisions of this paragraph."

29. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties could be a forum for enhancing further mutual supportiveness with WTO rules in the implementation of the Protocol.

30. The following elements are proposed for discussion in the context of exploring procedures and mechanisms to enhance information exchange between MEAs and relevant WTO Committees. The list is indicative and not exhaustive:

- Should the mechanism for exchange of information be limited to secretariats, as at present, or, should it be expanded to include elected officers of MEAs? This would depend on the type of issues to be considered. If the information to be exchanged is limited to provisions of agreements or decisions, such information can be exchanged at the level of secretariats. If, however, the scope of the information is extended to substantive issues (eg. principles, ways to establish the linkage, relationship between issues), a different mechanism may be needed.
- Is the current arrangement of MEAs responding to the CTE agenda sufficient to meet emerging needs of the WTO Committees? Should a collaborative partnership between the institutions be considered, to secure coherence in approaches to implementation?
- Procedures and mechanisms related to compliance under the Kyoto Protocol will interpret rules, in particular related to facilitation. There are also provisions for dispute settlement. It is important to avoid potential conflict in the event of adjudication. Would periodic "workshops" of members of the judicial/quasi-judicial/implementation bodies to exchange information and views help to promote mutual supportiveness of the regimes?

31. The Secretariat of the UNFCCC welcomes this constructive dialogue, and thanks the Chairman of the CTE for the opportunity to present its preliminary views.

VI. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

32. The text of the Convention on Biological Diversity does not explicitly refer to trade measures. Nor does the Convention generally prescribe specific measures. The provisions of the Convention, with a few exceptions, set goals. Its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety makes specific reference to trade agreements in its Preamble, but, in its operative text, does not explicitly refer to trade measures or generally prescribe specific measures. The specific measures required to implement the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol are largely the prerogative of Parties. In consequence, the CBD Secretariat does not undertake technical assistance activities that are directly trade-related.

33. Both the Convention and the Protocol, however, do contain a number of provisions that are widely understood to potentially require measures by Parties that could have consequences for trade. These provisions were described in WT/CTE/W/149. In consequence, a number of activities related to technical assistance are carried out under the programmes of work on those provisions that require measures by Parties with possible consequences for trade. For instance, the programmes of work on access and benefit sharing and on traditional knowledge provide for capacity building activities may relate to measures that could have consequences for trade. A similar observation applies to the Action Plan for Capacity Building of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol.

34. The fact that most biological diversity is found within developing countries has meant that both the Convention and the Protocol contain an extensive array of provisions addressing the specific needs of these countries, with a view to ensuring their full and effective participation in the process and to facilitating implementation. The Convention contains provisions addressing the transfer of technology; capacity-building; financial support for implementing the Convention, as well as participating in its decision making; awareness raising; scientific and technical cooperation; research and training; and exchange of information.

35. The Protocol places a similar emphasis on ways and means of meeting the needs of developing countries. Key provisions in this respect are Article 22 on capacity building and Article 28 on financial mechanism and resources. Article 22 provides that Parties shall cooperate in the development of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety, taking the needs of developing country States for financial and technological resources fully into account.

36. The financial mechanism of the Convention has played an important role in addressing the needs of developing countries and providing incentives to countries to join and implement the Convention. The mechanism is operated by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and is funded by contributions from States. Since its inception, the GEF has approved biodiversity projects amounting to over US\$1.3 billion. The Conference of the Parties undertook two reviews of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism and, although welcoming the efforts made to date by the GEF, did recognize that further improvements are needed to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. In this respect, the Conference of the Parties made a number of recommendations of a procedural nature for the GEF.

37. Suggestions from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in regard to further cooperation between MEAs and the WTO relate to, for example:

- developing systems of information sharing among Parties to the respective Conventions;
- increasing the understanding of the relationship between the relevant provision of the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD;
- enhancing the sharing of technical knowledge and expertise between the organisations; and facilitating capacity building.

VII. INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT (ITTA)

38. The administers the provisions and operation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994, a developmental, intergovernmental, international commodity agreement negotiated under the auspices of UNCTAD, which seeks to promote international trade in tropical timber, the sustainable management of tropical forests, and the development of tropical forest industries through international cooperation, policy work and projects. The overall work of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) can be viewed as an attempt to integrate trade and environment in respect of tropical forests and tropical timber, which has essentially been operationalized through the ITTO *Objective 2000*, through which Members reaffirm their commitment to moving towards achieving exports of tropical timber and timber products from sustainably-managed sources.

39. ITTO has to deal with tropical timber and tropical forests in its producing developing tropical Member countries, where most of the pressing constraints and challenges in promoting sustainable forest management within the overarching context of sustainable development are being encountered. Addressing the gaps in tropical forest management, industry and trade through technical and other forms of assistance and capacity building is, therefore, of central importance. It is no coincidence that enhancing the capacity of ITTO producing Members to attain the objectives of ITTA, 1994, including ITTO *Objective 2000* and to conserve and enhance other forest values in timber producing tropical forests, has been expressly provided for in the agreement. Promoting access to, and transfer of, technologies and technical cooperation is also one of the objectives of ITTA, 1994.

40. In the context of this challenging setting, the ITTA, 1994 relies not on trade measures, but on enabling conditions, as well as institutional and human capacity building to facilitate and assist Members towards attaining its objectives. ITTO policy work and project activities cover three principal fields: economic information and market intelligence; reforestation and forest management; and forest industry. Among the most significant contributions of ITTO is its pioneering normative work to develop guidelines covering aspects of sustainable tropical forest management; criteria and indicators for sustainable management of natural tropical forests; and a framework for the development of auditing systems. Collectively, these tools have been instrumental in building capacities for strengthening forest management in ITTO producing Member countries.

41. ITTO policy work is reinforced by its project activities implemented mainly in producing Member countries. This ensures that ITTO policy talk is substantiated by concrete action in the field. To date, ITTO has provided grants worth some US\$220 million to fund some 500 projects and activities, of which 150 are currently under implementation. These grants have been contributed by donor consuming Member countries through the ITTO Special Account and the Bali Partnership Fund, established to assist producing Member countries towards achieving the ITTO *Objective 2000*.

42. Virtually all ITTO project activities are country-driven, with the implementing Member countries initiating the formulation of proposals and subsequently having ownership of the projects in accordance with ITTO rules and procedures. This ITTO approach is aimed at addressing some of the concerns related to technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly meeting beneficiary national needs and priorities and minimising tied-aid and donor conditionalities.

43. ITTO policy work and project activities have helped enhance the capacity of Members to work towards the attainment of the ITTO *Objective 2000*, although progress is focused on policy and legislative reform, and problems of full implementation are still encountered. Tangible progress has also been made in several specific areas, including training in the application of ITTO criteria and indicators, reduced-impact logging, and the establishment of protected reserves. Some 500 full-time professionals are engaged in ITTO projects in the tropics, while forest, industry and conservation workforces have benefited from training and participation in the projects and activities. These

ITTO projects are subject to monitoring and evaluation, including *ex-post* evaluation to ensure their full implementation and desired impact.

44. In the conduct of ITTO trade-related activities, emphasis has been placed on ensuring that the activities are consistent with WTO rules and that duplication of efforts by the two organizations is avoided. Simultaneously, the desirability has been expressed that relevant issues and ITTO work should be taken into account by WTO in its deliberations. The need for strengthened cooperation with the WTO has been further underlined in light of ITTO becoming the focal agency with regard to the United Nations Forum on Forests' (UNFF) element on international trade and sustainable forest management within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Specifically, ITTO has been mandated to provide information on ITTO trade and environment activities to the WTO; to participate in meetings of the WTO and the CTE; and to monitor and report on developments in the WTO, particularly in respect to the follow-up to the 2001 WTO Doha Ministerial Conference. ITTO has participated in a number of WTO meetings on trade and development as well as trade and environment, as well as MEA Information Sessions in the CTE. In an attempt to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the WTO, ITTO has submitted its request to be admitted as observer in the CTE. It is hoped that this request, which is pending, will be given favourable consideration in due course.

45. On-going efforts by the WTO to reach out and disseminate information on its work through regional seminars and side-events are extremely beneficial, particularly to developing countries which require enhanced understanding and skills to deal with issues and procedures relating to the WTO. Thus far, efforts to promote cooperation with the WTO have been initiated by ITTO. In the spirit of reciprocity, it is hoped that the WTO, on its part, will consider participating in sessions of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC); organizing side-events in conjunction with these ITTC Sessions; and getting involved in some of the trade-related issues and activities of the ITTO.

46. In recent years, information exchange between MEAs and the WTO has been facilitated by the use of websites, electronic mail and other Internet tools. In view of its global coverage and cost-effectiveness, the Internet should continue to be the basis for enhancing MEA-WTO information exchange. Information sharing should lead to strengthening of cooperation, collaboration and partnership between the WTO and MEAs through concrete joint activities. However, constraints of time and resources will dictate that measures toward this end should be realistic, practical and taken on a priority basis. At the same time, possibilities to improve existing avenues for WTO-MEA interaction, including MEA Information Sessions in the CTE and its Special Sessions, should be explored continuously.

VIII. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

47. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, has undertaken an ongoing programme of technical assistance to States and international organizations in the field of oceans and the law of the sea. The programme focuses on the uniform and consistent application of the Convention by States and international organizations; assistance to States in the implementation of their obligations of due publicity; and support to implement the Convention effectively and derive optimal benefits from its legal framework. Such assistance is provided, *inter alia*, in the form of advisory services, training, fellowships, studies and guidelines, reference collections and databases, and through visits to the DOALOS web site.

48. Advisory services are extended to States on the harmonization of national laws and regulations with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS; on issues related to the ratification of the Convention and the Agreement relating to Implementation of Part XI of the Convention; and the

uniform and consistent application of the Convention, including the impact of its entry into force on the rights and obligations of States.

49. Capacity building activities of DOALOS are provided under its TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme in the field of ocean and coastal management, which is designed to strengthen the capabilities of national training institutions and to train national trainers. The institutions and the trainers then form a world wide network, which share training courses, personnel and material; thus generating a multiplier effect.

50. Other assistance activities of DOALOS include its *Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme*, which allows qualified Government officials to broaden their knowledge on the law of the sea and marine affairs; and *ad hoc* briefings and contributions to training programmes sponsored by national, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations in the field of oceans and the law of the sea. Training activities are being developed, which involve the application of the provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, dealing with the delineation of the limits of the continental shelf of a coastal State beyond 200 nautical miles, to provide training to national officials assigned to prepare the submission of their respective countries to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

51. DOALOS has carried out studies on, *inter alia*, *State Practice Relating to the Law of the Sea and Legislative History of Specific Articles of the Convention*. It has also issued guidelines on the practical application of the Convention, such as the 1991 *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Marine Scientific Research Provisions in UNCLOS*; the 1993 *Study of the Relevant Provisions of the Convention dealing with the Definition of the Continental Shelf*; and the 2000 *Handbook on the Delineation of Maritime Boundaries*, which addresses the process of maritime boundary delimitations. These publications are aimed at assisting States and intergovernmental organizations in the uniform and consistent application of the relevant provisions of the Convention, and are available through the United Nations sales publication (publications@un.org).

52. DOALOS maintains an extensive reference collection dealing with ocean and law of the sea matters and provides library services to end-users, as well as databases containing national legislation and delimitation treaties from almost all coastal countries of the world. It also maintains a geographical information system database on charts and/or lists of geographical coordinates and other related information deposited by States Parties to the Convention on the limits of their maritime zones. These databases are used as tools for providing technical assistance to States in adopting/adapting national legislation in conformity with the Convention and in delineating national maritime zones.

53. The Ocean and Law of the Sea web site of DOALOS, <http://www.un.org/Depts/los>, contains expository reports and other items as well as legal materials and documents relating to oceans and the law of the sea can be accessed electronically via the internet.

54. In addition, following the recent entry into force of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, in December 2001, States Parties are now required to cooperate, directly or through subregional, regional or global organizations, to provide financial and technical assistance to developing States with the aim of enabling them to: (i) conserve and manage straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks; (ii) develop their own fisheries for these stocks; (iii) participate on high seas fisheries; (iv) facilitate their participation in subregional or regional fisheries management organizations; (v) establish new subregional or regional fisheries management organizations arrangements or strengthen existing ones; and (vi)) meet costs involved in any proceedings for the settlement of disputes to which they may be parties.

ANNEX

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