

General Council

**IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES REFERRED TO WTO BODIES UNDER THE
DOHA MINISTERIAL DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED
ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Note by the Secretariat

This Note has been prepared by the Secretariat on its own responsibility in response to a request by Members at the 15 May meeting of the General Council for a factual Note on the status of the implementation issues referred to in a communication from India on this subject in document WT/GC/W/494. This Note is without prejudice to the positions of Members on these issues or to their rights or obligations under the WTO. The paragraph numbers before each issue below reflect those in the Doha Ministerial Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns (WT/MIN(01)/17). For ease of reference, issues are taken up in the same order as that in India's communication.

**I. ISSUES REFERRED TO WTO BODIES WITH THE REQUEST THAT THEY
REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL BY A SPECIFIC DATE**

Issue	Work undertaken
<p><u>Paragraph 1.2: Article XIII:2(d) of GATT 1994</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>1.2 Noting the issues raised in the report of the Chairperson of the Committee on Market Access (WT/GC/50) concerning the meaning to be given to the phrase "substantial interest" in paragraph 2(d) of Article XIII of the GATT 1994, the Market Access Committee is directed to give further consideration to the issue and make recommendations to the General Council as expeditiously as possible but in any event not later than the end of 2002.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Market Access Committee:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Market Access Committee, which reported to the General Council in December 2002, <i>inter alia</i>, that there was a lack of consensus on the recommendations to be made to the General Council, and referred the matter to the General Council for consideration (G/MA/119).</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in December 2002:</p> <p>The report of the Market Access Committee was considered by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/GC/M/77). Following the discussion on the report, the Chairman suggested that Members might wish to reflect further over</p>

Issue	Work undertaken
	<p>the end-of-year break on the various views that had been expressed on this matter, particularly with regard to the future course of action, and said that as all delegations were aware, this issue might be raised again by any Member in any WTO forum it deemed appropriate, including in the negotiations under the Doha agenda.</p> <p>The General Council took note of the report of the Market Access Committee and of the statements.</p>
<p><u>Paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5: Textiles and Clothing issues</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>Requests the Council for Trade in Goods to examine the following proposals:</p> <p>4.4 that when calculating the quota levels for small suppliers for the remaining years of the Agreement, Members will apply the most favourable methodology available in respect of those Members under the growth-on-growth provisions from the beginning of the implementation period; extend the same treatment to least-developed countries; and, where possible, eliminate quota restrictions on imports of such Members;</p> <p>4.5 that Members will calculate the quota levels for the remaining years of the Agreement with respect to other restrained Members as if implementation of the growth-on-growth provision for stage 3 had been advanced to 1 January 2000;</p> <p>and make recommendations to the General Council by 31 July 2002 for appropriate action.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Council for Trade in Goods:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Council for Trade in Goods in several formal and informal sessions (G/C/M/59-62 and 64). The Goods Council Chairman reported orally to the General Council in July 2002, <i>inter alia</i>, that the required consensus on the report and on the recommendations had not been reached, and that he was consequently not in a position to present a report with recommendations to the General Council (WT/GC/M/75).</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in July 2002:</p> <p>The report of the Chairman of the Goods Council was considered by the General Council in July 2002 (WT/GC/M/75). Following the discussion on the report, the Chairman said it was clear from the discussion that although, in accordance with the mandate received, this matter had been examined in the CTG, it had not been possible to formulate any recommendations for the General Council by 31 July 2002. Second, it was clear that the matter continued to be of great concern to a substantial number of delegations, from both importing and exporting countries. Third, it was apparent that there were still fundamental differences between the views and understandings of the importing countries and of the exporting developing countries with respect to the mandate and possible recommendations. Fourth, delegations had expressed very differing views on how best to deal with this issue, and</p>

Issue	Work undertaken
	<p>Members had clearly not reached a consensus on how to resolve it. In view of this situation and having examined various possible options, he proposed that the General Council take note of the statement by the Chairman of the CTG and of those by delegations, on the understanding that this would not prejudice the various positions taken by Members, which would be duly reflected in the minutes of the present meeting. He was convinced that all Members would use the summer break to continue to reflect on the various views that had been expressed.</p> <p>The General Council agreed to the Chairman's proposal.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 7.4: Article 18.6 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping)</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>7.4 Takes note that Article 18.6 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 requires the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices to review annually the implementation and operation of the Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee on Anti-dumping Practices is instructed to draw up guidelines for the improvement of annual reviews and to report its views and recommendations to the General Council for subsequent decision within 12 months.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, which reported to the General Council in December 2002 with a recommendation for improvements that would provide useful information to Members and the public, and would enhance transparency under the Agreement (G/ADP/9).</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in December 2002:</p> <p>The report of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices was considered by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/GC/M/77). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council took note of the report and of the statements, and approved the recommendation contained in document G/ADP/9.</p>

Issue	Work undertaken
<p data-bbox="188 333 785 432"><u>Paragraph 8.3: Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT 1994 (Customs Valuation)</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 468 453 499">Ministerial Decision:</p> <p data-bbox="188 535 751 566">The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="188 602 785 1272">8.3 Underlines the importance of strengthening cooperation between the customs administrations of Members in the prevention of customs fraud. In this regard, it is agreed that, further to the 1994 Ministerial Decision Regarding Cases Where Customs Administrations Have Reasons to Doubt the Truth or Accuracy of the Declared Value, when the customs administration of an importing Member has reasonable grounds to doubt the truth or accuracy of the declared value, it may seek assistance from the customs administration of an exporting Member on the value of the good concerned. In such cases, the exporting Member shall offer cooperation and assistance, consistent with its domestic laws and procedures, including furnishing information on the export value of the good concerned. Any information provided in this context shall be treated in accordance with Article 10 of the Customs Valuation Agreement.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1308 785 1608">Furthermore, recognizing the legitimate concerns expressed by the customs administrations of several importing Members on the accuracy of the declared value, the Committee on Customs Valuation is directed to identify and assess practical means to address such concerns, including the exchange of information on export values and to report to the General Council by the end of 2002 at the latest.</p>	<p data-bbox="809 468 1407 533">Consideration by the Customs Valuation Committee:</p> <p data-bbox="809 602 1407 1137">This issue was considered by the Customs Valuation Committee, which reported to the General Council in December 2002 (G/VAL/50), <i>inter alia</i>, that the Committee would require technical input and advice to further evaluate all submissions and views, which it has requested from the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation (TCCV), and that the TCCV was to conclude its examination and report to the Committee by 15 May 2003 in order that the Committee might consider the technical inputs and advice provided. The Committee requested the General Council to take note of the progress to date, to allow it to continue to work under the existing mandate, and to establish an appropriate time for reporting on the matter.</p> <p data-bbox="809 1173 1407 1238">Consideration by the General Council in December 2002:</p> <p data-bbox="809 1274 1407 1574">The Committee's report was considered by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/GC/M/77). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council took note of the report and of the progress to date and authorized the Committee to continue its work under the existing mandate and to report back to the General Council once its work had been completed.</p> <p data-bbox="809 1610 944 1641">Follow up:</p> <p data-bbox="809 1677 1407 2078">The TCCV submitted its response to the Committee on 15 May 2003 (G/VAL/54), which was discussed at the Committee's meeting on 23 May. The Committee agreed that its incoming Chairman would consult informally on how further work should proceed and, in the meantime, suspended its consideration of this item. The Chairman is consulting with delegations and will report to the Committee on the outcome of the consultations, at which time the Committee will decide on how to complete its mandate, including reporting to the General</p>

Issue	Work undertaken
<p><u>Paragraph 10.3: Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>10.3 Agrees that the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures shall continue its review of the provisions of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures regarding countervailing duty investigations and report to the General Council by 31 July 2002.</p>	<p>Council.</p> <p>Consideration by the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, whose Chairman reported to the General Council in July 2002 (G/SCM/45), <i>inter alia</i>, that it was his sense that there existed diverging views on whether and how the Committee could or should proceed after the completion of the 31 July 2002 mandate, and that he had been unable to identify any significant basis for a consensus on any specific suggestion by the Committee in terms of the substantive aspects of the review or with respect to any next step. He had had to conclude that in the context of the Committee, the discussions of these issues had been taken as far as possible.</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in July 2002:</p> <p>The report of the Chairman of the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures was considered by the General Council at its meeting in July 2002 (WT/GC/M/75). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Committee and of the statements by delegations.</p>
<p><u>Paragraphs 12.1(i) and (ii): Crosscutting S&D issues</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>12.1 The Committee on Trade and Development is instructed:</p> <p>(i) to identify those special and differential treatment provisions that are already mandatory in nature and those that are non-binding in character, to consider the legal and practical implications for developed and developing Members of converting special and differential</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session, which reported to the General Council in July and December 2002 and in February 2003. The report of the Special Session in February 2003 (TN/CTD/7) recommended that the General Council take note of the recommendations on 12 Agreement-specific proposals on which Members had agreed in principle, and revert to the question</p>

Issue	Work undertaken
<p>treatment measures into mandatory provisions, to identify those that Members consider should be made mandatory, and to report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2002;</p> <p>(ii) to examine additional ways in which special and differential treatment provisions can be made more effective, to consider ways, including improved information flows, in which developing countries, in particular the least-developed countries, may be assisted to make best use of special and differential treatment provisions, and to report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2002; and</p> <p>(iii) to consider, in the context of the work programme adopted at the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference, how special and differential treatment may be incorporated into the architecture of WTO rules.</p> <p>The work of the Committee on Trade and Development in this regard shall take fully into consideration previous work undertaken as noted in WT/COMTD/W/77/Rev.1. It will also be without prejudice to work in respect of implementation of WTO Agreements in the General Council and in other Councils and Committees.</p>	<p>of their adoption at a later date. It further recommended that the General Council provide clarification, as it considered appropriate, regarding paragraph 44 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and paragraph 12 of the Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns, and the legal and practical means to give effect to the mandate. It also recommended that in the interim, the General Council instruct the Special Session to suspend further work.</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in February 2003:</p> <p>The report of the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development was considered by the General Council in February 2003 (WT/GC/M/78). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council agreed to a proposal by the Chairman that the General Council revert to this matter, after having taken note of the report and of the statements, and invite its incoming Chairman, in coordination with the Chairman of the CTD in Special Session, to undertake consultations immediately on how to take this very important matter forward.</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>At the May 2003 meeting of the General Council, the Chairman indicated that in line with the mandate given to him, he had started consultations in March with Members to explore various ideas on a possible new approach to the work ahead. On the basis of these consultations, he had put forward an approach paper on 7 April (JOB(03)/68) outlining what he believed to be the best way to enable Members to move forward. The suggested approach included two fundamental premises: (1) all Agreement-specific proposals on S&D treatment were on the table and would be considered by Members without prejudging the results; and (2) in order to make the work more efficient, it was suggested to informally categorize the 88 Agreement-specific proposals, without in any way implying a prioritization of these proposals. Based on this suggested approach, and following a careful examination of all the Agreement-specific proposals, he had divided these proposals into three broad categories, and on 5 May had circulated a paper (Job 3404) reflecting these</p>

Issue	Work undertaken
	<p>categories in a consolidated list, which would be the basis for Members' future work with regard to special and differential treatment. On the basis of this approach, the Chairman has been holding further consultations at the level of Permanent Representatives, and will submit a further progress report to the General Council at its next meeting, scheduled for 24-25 July.</p>

II. ISSUES REFERRED TO WTO BODIES FOR FURTHER WORK:

Issue	Status
<p><u>Paragraph 3.3: "equivalence" in the SPS Agreement</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follow:</p> <p>3.3 Takes note of the Decision of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/SPS/19) regarding equivalence, and instructs the Committee to develop expeditiously the specific programme to further the implementation of Article 4 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the SPS Committee in 2002. As part of its report on implementation-related issues to the TNC in December 2002, the Committee also reported on this matter, indicating, <i>inter alia</i>, that work in the Committee had progressed regularly in line with its Programme for Further Work adopted in March 2002 (G/SPS/24).</p> <p>Consideration by the TNC in December 2002:</p> <p>The SPS Committee's activities on this issue formed part of a report submitted to the TNC in December 2002. The TNC took note of the report (TN/C/M/5).</p> <p>Follow up:</p> <p>Following the meeting of the SPS Committee on 24-25 June 2003, its Chairman will submit a report to the General Council on 24-25 July on his own responsibility which will provide an update to the information contained in the report of December 2002.</p>

Issue	Status
<p><u>Paragraph 7.2: Article 15 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping)</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>7.2 Recognizes that, while Article 15 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 is a mandatory provision, the modalities for its application would benefit from clarification. Accordingly, the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices is instructed, through its working group on Implementation, to examine this issue and to draw up appropriate recommendations within twelve months on how to operationalize this provision.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, whose Chairman reported orally to the General Council in December 2002, <i>inter alia</i>, that he had been unable to identify any significant basis for consensus on a recommendation by the Committee responsive to the mandate under which the discussions had been conducted, although it was clear that the issues raised in the proposals, as developed and clarified through the discussions, might yet form the basis for further discussion, should any Member submit proposals concerning them for discussion in an appropriate forum. (G/ADP/11).</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in December 2002:</p> <p>The report by the Chairman of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices was considered by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/GC/M/77). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Committee and of the statements.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 7.3: Article 5.8 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping)</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>7.3 Takes note that Article 5.8 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 does not specify the time-frame to be used in determining the volume of dumped imports, and that this lack of specificity creates uncertainties in the implementation of the provision. The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices is instructed, through its working group</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, which reported to the General Council in December 2002 with a recommendation concerning the time-period to be considered in making a determination of negligible import volumes for the purposes of Article 5.8 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement (G/ADP/10). In order to provide guidance in this regard, the Committee recommended that</p>

Issue	Status
<p>on implementation, to study this issue and draw up recommendations within 12 months, with a view to ensuring the maximum possible predictability and objectivity in the application of time frames.</p>	<p>Members determine the volume of dumped imports with reference to one of three defined time periods, notify the Committee as to the chosen methodology to be used in all investigations and, if in any investigation the chosen methodology was not used, provide an explanation in the public notice or separate public report of that investigation.</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council in December 2002:</p> <p>The report of the Committee was considered by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/GC/M/77). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council took note of the report and of the statements, and also took note of the recommendation contained in document G/ADP/10.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 9.1: Agreement on Rules of Origin</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>9.1 Takes note of the report of the Committee on Rules of Origin (G/RO/48) regarding progress on the harmonization work programme, and urges the Committee to complete its work by the end of 2001.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Rules of Origin:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Rules of Origin, whose Chairman submitted a report to the General Council in December 2001 (G/RO/49), and indicated, <i>inter alia</i>, that his consultations since the circulation of the report had indicated a growing consensus that the deadline should be extended to the end of 2002, and that two additional sessions of the CRO should be held in the first half of 2002 to resolve remaining issues and to identify a limited number of core policy-level issues, with a report to be submitted to the General Council for discussion and decision. There was also growing consensus on the need for a specific mandate from the General Council at the present meeting, in order to avoid losing momentum.</p> <p>Consideration by the General Council:</p> <p>The report of the Committee Chairman was considered by the General Council in December 2001 (WT/GC/M/72). Following the discussion on the report, the General Council agreed that the CRO would hold two additional sessions in the first half of 2002 to resolve remaining issues, in which it might identify a</p>

Issue	Status
	<p>limited number of core policy-level issues which in its view needed to be reported to the General Council for discussion and decision at that level. It also agreed that the outcome of the CRO's further work would be reported by the Chairman of the Committee, on his own responsibility, to the General Council at its first regular meeting after the end of June 2002, at which point the matter would be in the hands of the General Council, and that the deadline for completion of the harmonization work programme would be extended to the end of 2002.</p> <p>Follow Up:</p> <p>At its meeting in July 2002, the General Council took note of a report by the Chairman of the CRO and of the recommendations contained therein (G/RO/52), and agreed to hold a first meeting on the 12 core policy-level issues identified in paragraph 5.1 of that report (WT/GC/M/75).</p> <p>At its meeting in December 2002, the General Council considered a report from its Chairman and the Chairman of the CRO on the progress to date. Following the discussion, and taking into account the importance of the issues to be resolved and the implications to be considered, and in the full knowledge of the consequences of a failure to meet another new deadline, the General Council agreed to extend, to July 2003, the deadline for completion of negotiations on the core policy issues identified in the CRO Chair's report to the General Council of 15 July 2002. The General Council also agreed that following resolution of these core policy issues, the Committee on Rules of Origin complete its remaining technical work, including the work referred to in Article 9.3(b) of the Agreement on Rules of Origin, by 31 December 2003 (WT/GC/M/77).</p> <p>Since December 2002, and at the request of the General Council Chairman, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CRO have been holding intensive consultations with a view to progressing this issue, and will report to the General Council at its next meeting, scheduled for 24-25 July.</p>

Issue	Status
<p><u>Paragraph 10.1: Annex VII(b) of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>10.1 Agrees that Annex VII(b) to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures includes the Members that are listed therein until their GNP per capita reaches US \$1,000 in constant 1990 dollars for three consecutive years. This decision will enter into effect upon the adoption by the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of an appropriate methodology for calculating constant 1990 dollars. If, however, the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures does not reach a consensus agreement on an appropriate methodology by 1 January 2003, the methodology proposed by the Chairman of the Committee set forth in G/SCM/38, Appendix 2 shall be applied. A Member shall not leave Annex VII(b) so long as its GNP per capita in current dollars has not reached US \$1000 based upon the most recent data from the World Bank.</p>	<p>Consideration by the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, which reported to the Council for Trade in Goods at the end of 2002, <i>inter alia</i>, that at its May 2002 regular meeting, and in the absence of any proposals concerning methodology, the Committee had agreed to revert to this matter as and when any proposal might be received, and that as of the end of 2002 no such proposals had been received (G/L/585).</p> <p>Accordingly, the methodology referred to in G/SCM/38, Appendix 2, entered into force on 1 January 2003.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 11.2: Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement</u></p> <p>Ministerial Decision:</p> <p>The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:</p> <p>11.2 Reaffirming that the provisions of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement are mandatory, it is agreed that the TRIPS Council shall put in place a mechanism for ensuring the monitoring and full implementation of the obligations in question. To this end, developed-country Members shall submit prior to the end of 2002 detailed reports on the functioning in practice of the incentives provided to their enterprises for the transfer of technology in pursuance of their commitments under Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement. These submissions shall be subject to a review in the TRIPS Council and information shall be updated by Members annually.</p>	<p>Consideration by the TRIPS Council:</p> <p>This issue was considered by the TRIPS Council, which in February 2003 adopted a Decision on the Implementation of Article 66.2 (IP/C/28). The arrangements set out in this Decision are subject to review, with a view to improving them, after three years by the TRIPS Council in the light of the experience.</p>

III. REQUEST TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO CONTINUE HIS COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARD-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS ON SPS AND TBT TO FACILITATE ACCORDING PRIORITY TO THE PARTICIPATION OF LDCS

ISSUES

Paragraph 3.5: Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Ministerial Decision:

The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:

3.5 (i) Takes note of the actions taken to date by the Director-General to facilitate the increased participation of Members at different levels of development in the work of the relevant international standard setting organizations as well as his efforts to coordinate with these organizations and financial institutions in identifying SPS-related technical assistance needs and how best to address them; and

(ii) Urges the Director-General to continue his cooperative efforts with these organizations and institutions in this regard, including with a view to according priority to the effective participation of least-developed countries and facilitating the provision of technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

Paragraph 5.3: Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

Ministerial Decision:

The Ministerial Conference decides as follows:

5.3 (i) Takes note of the actions taken to date by the Director-General to facilitate the increased participation of Members at different levels of development in the work of the relevant international standard setting organizations as well as his efforts to coordinate with these organizations and financial institutions in identifying TBT-related technical assistance needs and how best to address them; and

(ii) Urges the Director-General to continue his cooperative efforts with these organizations and institutions, including with a view to according priority to the effective participation of least-developed countries and facilitating the provision of technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

The activities of the WTO Secretariat in this regard have continued. On SPS-related matters, the heads of the WTO, FAO, OIE, WHO and World Bank issued a joint statement at the Doha Ministerial Conference, reaffirming their common objectives relating to the participation of developing countries in the development and application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The five organizations also made a formal commitment to work together to further exploit the synergies between the organizations in technical assistance.

This joint commitment in Doha led to the establishment, during the course of 2002, of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). This fund, established by the World Bank, will be administered by the WTO with the partnership of the FAO, OIE, WHO and World Bank. The STDF is to be used to facilitate the coordination of the delivery of

development assistance in SPS-related areas by the partner institutions, and to enhance the capacity of developing countries to effectively participate in the development of international standards, to benefit from international trade by meeting these standards, and to implement the obligations and take advantage of the rights arising from the SPS Agreement.¹ This new mechanism, with the formal and direct involvement of the relevant standard-setting bodies and the World Bank, is expected to provide concrete results for developing-country Members.

At the same time, the other international organizations have also pursued their own mechanisms to facilitate the effective participation of developing countries in standard-setting activities, and this has become a priority issue for many organizations. One noteworthy outcome was the launch, in February 2003, of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for the Participation of Developing Countries and Countries in Transition in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

On TBT-related matters, in 2001-2002, the WTO Secretariat, in cooperation with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), held five regional workshops (Bangkok, Belgrade, Bogotá, Cairo and Nairobi) aimed at identifying possible actions to enhance the participation of developing countries in international standardization. The participants in these workshops (representatives of standardization stakeholders) identified the obstacles to participation and sought possible solutions. The results of these regional workshops were reported at a wrap-up workshop held back to back with the ISO General Assembly in September 2002. Mr. Ravier, the then Deputy Director General, attended that workshop where a list of recommended actions was drawn up and submitted to the ISO General Assembly for decisions and action. A task force was established to develop an operational programme of action and to identify actions that could be implemented immediately. This programme was presented to the ISO Council at its March 2003 meeting and was adopted by that Council. Actions are being implemented to enhance the participation of developing countries in the work of ISO.

This year, regional workshops with similar objectives have been organized by the Secretariat for the Latin American countries and the SADC region. This time, with the cooperation of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML). A different approach was adopted to avoid repeating what had been achieved in 2001-2002. The workshops were structured to focus on the practical approaches of national coordination, regional cooperation as well as the use of electronic means to enhance participation.

6. At the same time, parallel to these efforts, the TBT Committee is mandated to developing a TBT-related technical cooperation programme before the end of this year, under the Third Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement. This programme covers also the elements which were mandated to the Director-General by the General Council and by Ministers to assist developing country Members. Attention had been given to avoiding the duplication of work in this regard, taking into account the work of the TBT Committee.

¹G/SPS/GEN/37.