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**High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for
Least-Developed Countries' Trade Development**

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ROUND TABLES: DOCUMENTATION

Bangladesh

Addendum

Documentation for the Round Table Meeting for Bangladesh.

CHECK-LIST FOR CONDUCTING TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL
COOPERATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. Trade Policy

(a) **What are the sectors that you believe have unexploited or under-exploited export potential?**

1. Unexploited Sectors

- (i) Jewellery, diamond cutting and polishing
- (ii) Electric and electronics
- (iii) Luggage and fashion goods
- (iv) Computer software and data entry/processing
- (v) Spectacle frames
- (vi) Cut flower and orchid
- (vii) Furniture
- (viii) Fruits (fresh as well as canned/preserved)
- (ix) Food processing
- (x) Engineering consultancy and services

2. Under-exploited Sectors

- (i) Textiles, particularly yarn, woven and knit fabrics, and specialized textiles including silk fabrics and clothing
- (ii) Leather and leather goods
- (iii) High fashion ready-made garment and knitwear
- (iv) Frozen food (mainly shrimps including cooked/semi-cooked shrimps)
- (v) Artificial flowers
- (vi) Toys (stuffed, electronic and mechanical)
- (vii) Agricultural products (processed)
- (viii) Jute goods (diversified items)
- (ix) Handicrafts (made from cane, bamboo, leather, textile, etc.)
- (x) Tea (packet tea, tea bag and canned tea)
- (xi) Engineering products
- (xii) Chemical products (e.g. pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, toiletries, etc.)

(b) **Could you please define your country's perspective of the reasons for any changes in the structure and direction of exports and imports?**

A distinctive feature of Bangladesh's exports has been a decline (in both absolute and relative terms) in traditional exports like raw jute, jute goods and tea, and a spectacular increase in non-traditional exports like ready-made garments, frozen fish and shrimps, and leather and leather goods. In real terms, traditional exports have experienced negative growth rates throughout the entire period FY 1981-FY 1994. By contrast, the growth rate of non-traditional exports (as a group) was 33.9 per cent during the period FY 1981-FY1986, which declined sharply to 10.7 per cent during the period FY 1987-FY 1991, but then recovered to 24.8 per cent during FY 1992-FY 1994. As a result of the sustained growth of non-traditional exports, the share of this group of exports in total export rose from 31 per cent in FY 1983 to 87 per cent in FY 1995. The share of traditional exports in total export fell from 69 per cent to 13 per cent during the above period. The changing commodity composition of Bangladesh's

exports is also reflected by the fact that manufactured exports have increased significantly and constituted 87 per cent of total exports in FY 1996.

The rather impressive shift in Bangladesh's exports from traditional to non-traditional goods (and from primary to manufactured commodities) pales somewhat when it is noted that the rapid growth registered by non-traditional exports (and for that matter manufactured exports) is largely attributable to the phenomenal growth experienced by ready-made garments and knitwear exports. These two items comprised nearly 67 per cent of total exports of Bangladesh in FY 1996. It is important to note that four commodities, viz., ready-made garments, knitwear, leather and jute manufactures make up over 90 per cent of manufactured exports from Bangladesh. These data indicate the commodity concentration of Bangladesh's exports; the Gini-Hirschman export concentration index has risen secularly from 0.558 in FY 1992 to 0.622 in FY 1996.

In addition to commodity concentration, Bangladesh's exports are also characterized by market concentration. Three countries, viz. USA, UK and Germany, were the destination for over one-half of Bangladesh's total export in FY 1996; in this year, ten countries accounted for about two-third of the country's total export. The Gini-Hirschman market concentration index for Bangladesh's exports was 0.32 in FY 1995.

Ready-made garments and knitwear were the major export items destined for the major export markets noted above. This indicates the link between commodity concentration and market concentration of Bangladesh's exports. Diversification of the export basket is therefore needed to achieve a sustainable high rate of export growth. The need for export diversification assumes critical importance when note is taken of the fact that the MFA-quota system, which has been a major factor behind the rapid growth of garments export from Bangladesh, will be completely phased out by 2005 and thereafter the country's export of garments will face stiff competition from hitherto quota-restrained apparel exporting countries. While commodity diversification is likely to lead to some degree of market diversification for Bangladesh's exports, more direct measures would have to be taken to achieve greater market diversification, and this would include obtaining up to date market information, aggressive marketing policy, etc.

Capital and intermediate goods have dominated imports into Bangladesh. However, their combined share in total import has declined from 68.7 per cent in FY 1992 to 60.1 per cent in FY 1996. By contrast, the share of primary goods (which includes foodgrains and other food) in total import has risen secularly from 24.7 per cent in FY 1992 to 28.5 per cent in FY 1996. An increase in import of foodgrains was largely responsible for the acceleration in growth of primary goods import. The share of final consumer goods import has increased from 6.6 per cent in FY 1992 to 11.4 per cent in FY 1996. The declining share of import of producer goods is of some concern since investment is strongly import-intensive in Bangladesh. A revival in growth of import of capital goods since FY 1995, which raised the share of this import category in total import from 20 per cent in FY 1994 to nearly 24 per cent in FY 1996, has however been a redeeming feature. An increase in capital goods import has resulted from increased levels of investment in the economy.

The sources of Bangladesh's imports have been much more diversified than her export markets. The Gini-Hirschman market concentration index for imports was only 0.079 in FY 1995. USA, Japan, Singapore and Republic of Korea have traditionally been the major sources of Bangladesh's imports. This pattern has changed in recent years with India emerging as the major source of imports. The share of India in total import of Bangladesh has doubled from 6 per cent in FY 1991 to 12.2 per cent in FY 1995.

(c) What have been the objectives of trade policy in the most recent period, compared to say, two decades ago?

Up until the early 1980s, trade policy in Bangladesh had served as a handmaiden of an inward-looking growth strategy that was followed with the belief that industries would grow rapidly if these operated behind high protective walls. Consequently, the overriding objective of trade policy of that period was to promote import-substituting industries through erecting high tariff and non-tariff barriers against imports, coupled with exchange control measures. There was a large number of tariff slabs, tariff rates were high, import bans and quantitative restrictions on imports were ubiquitous, and there was a proliferation of end-user based tariff concessions.

The mid-eighties marks a watershed in the trade regime of Bangladesh. Disenchantment with the import-substitution strategy led to the adoption of an outward-looking growth strategy wherein the objective of trade policy was to promote rapid export growth through reducing and ultimately eliminating the anti-export bias prevalent in the economy. Keeping this objective in view, the import regime has been continuously liberalized and simultaneously direct export incentive schemes have been put in place. More specifically, in the most recent period the number of tariff slabs has been brought down to seven, the highest tariff rate has been brought down to 42.5 per cent, only a handful of items are subject to quantitative restrictions for trade reasons, the sales tax on imports has been replaced by a trade-neutral value-added tax on both imports and local production, the import licensing procedure has been abolished, exchange controls have been considerably relaxed and the Taka has been made convertible on current account, and various export incentive schemes have been implemented with the objective of providing exporters with imported inputs at world market prices.

(d) What are the Ministries in charge of trade policy matters, including formulation, implementation enforcement and monitoring? How is coordination made? What are the respective roles of the relevant Ministries (give particular attention to tariff policies and other policies directly affecting exports and imports of goods and services)?

The Ministry of Commerce is primarily responsible for formulating, implementing, enforcing and monitoring trade policy matters through its agencies the Bangladesh Tariff Commission, the Export Promotion Bureau, and the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. The task of designing the tariff policy is entrusted with the Tariff Commission, the Import Policy is drawn up and enforced by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, while the Export Policy is formulated by the Export Promotion Bureau. The National Board of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance is responsible for implementing the tariff rates as well determining assessable values of imports for imposing customs duty. The Ministries of Industries, Jute, Textiles, Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock are also involved in the process of formulating trade policy. Coordination is made through inter-ministerial, cabinet sub-committee and cabinet meetings.

(e) How are the private sector and academic institutions associated with the formulation and conduct of trade policy?

The private sector is closely associated with the formulation and conduct of trade policy through its participation in official meetings relating to trade policy and by providing written comments/suggestions on draft policies in this area. Representatives of various chambers of commerce and industry are members of consultative committees formed by the Government for designing trade policy, the most important of which are the following:

- (i) National Committee for Exports headed by the Honourable Prime Minister.
- (ii) Export Promotion Council headed by the Honourable Minister for Commerce.

- (iii) Task Force in the Ministry of Commerce headed by the Honourable Minister for Commerce.
- (iv) Import Consultative Committee headed by the Honourable Minister for Commerce.
- (v) National Board Of Revenue Consultative Committee headed by Minister for Finance.
- (vi) Industrial Development Council headed by Minister for Industries.

Monitoring and periodic reviews are also held to examine implementation of suggestions received from the private sector.

The involvement of academic institutions in the formulation of trade policy is ensured through often including eminent academician in the committees noted above. Furthermore, inputs for trade policy formulation often emanate from research studies and seminars organized by Universities and leading professional institutions/organizations like the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies, the Centre for Policy Dialogue, the Bangladesh Economic Association, the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, etc.

(f) What are the institutions in your country that can play a role in implementation of trade-related project at the local level? State their respective roles.

(i) Public Sector Institutions

- Bangladesh Tariff Commission (its primary role is to formulate tariff policy and make recommendations regarding import policy, and to initiate investigations regarding adoption of unfair trade practices by foreigners exporting to Bangladesh and, on this basis, make recommendations to the National Board of Revenue to levy anti-dumping and countervailing duties).
- Export Promotion Bureau (its role is to promote exports).
- National Board of Revenue (implements tariff policy).
- Office of the Chief Controller of Import and Export (its role is to regulate import trade).
- Board of Investment (promotes investment in general and foreign investment in particular).

(ii) Private Sector Institutions

- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- Leading Chambers of Commerce and Industry like Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Chamber of Industry, and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Leading Exporters' associations like Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association, Frozen Foods Exporters' Association, Finished Leather and Leather Goods Exporters' Association etc.
- The role of the private sector institutions is to provide support services to producers and exporters primarily by establishing linkages between the private sector the Government and external actors (e.g. foreign chambers)

(g) What are the main laws with trade policy - on exports and imports? Please provide a short description of each.

The main laws and regulations dealing with trade policy are:

- (i) Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950
- (ii) Importers, Exporters and Indentors (Registration) Order, 1981
- (iii) Customs Act, 1969
- (iv) The Review, Appeal and Revision Order, 1977
- (v) The Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act, 1947

The Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950 empowers the Government to regulate, by law, importation and exportation of goods and services into and from Bangladesh. The primary responsibility for implementing this Act lies with the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. The responsibility of enforcing the provisions of the Customs Act, 1969 is vested with the National Board of Revenue and Collectorate of Customs and Excise. Bangladesh Bank, the Central Bank of the country, implements the provisions of the Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act, 1947 which *inter alia* regulates the purposes for which, and the procedures through which, foreign exchange may be taken out or brought into Bangladesh. These three cardinal Acts in the field of foreign trade are complementary in nature, and infringement of one Act may involve infringement of another Act.

(h) What are the main instruments of trade policy - on exports and imports? Please elaborate (e.g. oil import restrictions, the questions might be: on what products are there any import bans; on what products are there quantitative restrictions; licensing requirements etc.; what is the highest tariff rate currently in use; are there any excise taxes, other "domestic" taxes that are applied differentially to imported goods, or to goods of a type that are principally imported?)

Major trade policy instruments on the import side include import tariff (or customs duty), supplementary duty (in some cases) on both imports and local production, 15 per cent *ad valorem* value-tax oil imports as well as local products, direct controls on imports which include import bans and qualificative restrictions, and fixation of 'tariff values'.

Currently there are seven tariff slabs (including the zero rate which is applicable to a number of products) and the highest operative tariff rate stands at 42.5 per cent. A variable rated trade-neutral supplementary excise duty, which is in the nature of a consumption tax, is imposed on some imported products and their corresponding locally produced substitutes. In FY 1991 the import-discriminatory sales tax was replaced by a 15 per cent *ad valorem* value-added tax on both imports and corresponding locally produced goods (with some exceptions), and this is still in operation; the value-added tax is a trade-neutral consumption tax. The value-added tax loses its trade-neutral character when applied to textile products; while textile imports are subject to the 15 per cent value-added tax, their locally produced substitutes are exempted from this tax and instead an excise tax of 2.5 per cent *ad valorem* is applicable. Tariff concessions based on end-use of the same product are allowed in some cases with the objective of stimulating growth of domestic industry. An infrastructure development surcharge of 2.5 per cent has been introduced in FY 1998, but this is trade-neutral in character. A system of fixed 'tariff value' is in operation (alongside a voluntary PSI valuation scheme) wherein tariff values are determined by the National Board of Revenue for certain imported products to check the practice of under-invoicing or over-invoicing of imports by unscrupulous importers.

Elimination of quantitative restrictions (QRs) on imports and their replacement by tariffs has been the strategy which has been pursued zealously by the Government of Bangladesh. In FY 1996 only 2 per cent of H.S.-8 tariff lines were subject to trade-related QRs. In absolute terms, the number

of trade-related QRs was reduced to 23 in the Import Policy Order 1995-97; of these, 11 were banned items while import of the remaining 12 items was restricted (i.e. importable subject to fulfilment of specified conditions). The textile sector currently enjoys the heaviest protection from QRs, with about a quarter of HS-8 lines in this sector still remaining under QRs. Some of the textile goods whose import are currently banned are woven fabrics of silk, cotton-synthetic blended suiting fabrics above 60 inches width, shirting and suiting fabrics of synthetic or man-made fibers, all knitted or crocheted fabrics, etc. Some textile products whose import are restricted are drill and cellular dyed fabrics, 'khaki' fabrics, combat fabrics, grey fabrics etc. No licence is required for importation under the Import Policy Order, 1995-97.

Apart from import liberalization which aims to stimulate export growth by removing anti-export bias, major policy instruments applied to exports include direct measures to facilitate exports and export controls. There are a number of export support measures in operation. The Special Bonded Warehouse (SBW) scheme aims at enhancing export competitiveness through providing exporters access to duty-free inputs, all 100 per cent exporters and "deemed" exporters (i.e. local firms supplying inputs to 100 per cent exporters) are eligible for getting SBW benefits. The Duty Drawback scheme provides 100 per cent exporters and "deemed" exporters with rebates of duties and taxes paid on imported inputs. These exporters are eligible to get 25 per cent cash compensation if they refrain from using Duty Drawback facilities. The export Development Fund and the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme provides finance to exporters.

A few export controls remain in operation. Until recently, re-exports were restricted. At present, however, re-export of goods other than ready-made garments is allowed on a case-by-case basis. Export of some agricultural commodities is banned. These include wheat, pulses, onions, jute seeds, prawns and shrimp (except frozen), whole bamboo and cane. Export of molasses, de-oiled rice bran, and wheat bran are restricted. Export of several manufactured goods is also restricted. These include ferrous and non-ferrous metals, petroleum and petroleum products (except naphtha), 'gur' (indigenous sugar), raw and wet blue leather, and urea.

(i) In case you are a WTO Member or are in the process of acceding, how is your country preparing itself to comply with WTO Agreements?

Bangladesh is a founding-Member of the WTO and has been taking active interest in the activities of the GATT (now WTO) since her independence in December 1971. As a spokesman for the least-developed countries, Bangladesh played a leading role in the multilateral negotiations held under the Uruguay Round. So she is fully aware of her obligations to comply with the various WTO Agreements, and this sense of awareness has motivated the Government of Bangladesh to take some preparatory actions in this regard.

A major objective of the WTO Agreements is to achieve increased trade flows among Member countries through the adoption of more liberal trade policies. Bangladesh has unilaterally liberalized her trade regime substantially in pursuance of its Structural Adjustment Programme, and the Government is committed to further liberalization in the future. A strategy of private sector-led growth is being pursued with vigour, and this has resulted in widespread deregulation and denationalization, adoption of measures to attract private foreign investment, and launching of legal, institutional and other reforms to strengthen market forces.

The Government of Bangladesh is cognizant of the fact that reform of the legal and institutional framework relating to the external sector would have to conform to the rules of the WTO system. In other words, in the most-Uruguay Round trading environment, trade will have to be conducted in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations laid down in the various WTO Agreements, and

this calls for developing, strengthening and reshaping the extant administrative, legal and institutional set-up. However, before this task can be undertaken, it is imperative to identify and pin-point institutional and other changes that will be required to bring the overall trade policy framework in Bangladesh into conformity with various WTO Agreements. With this aim in view, a study project manned by local and expatriate consultants was mounted on the Final Act of the Uruguay Round by the Ministry of Commerce with UNDP assistance in 1996. The Report of this study has identified areas where necessary changes have to be made in order to comply with WTO Agreements. The recommendations of this Report are under active consideration of relevant Ministries for purposes of implementation. Meanwhile, some changes have already been made in the rules and regulations governing international trade. Thus, for instance, Ministry of Finance has already enacted rules and regulations relating to imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

- (j) What is the state of familiarity with the WTO framework:**
- among government and government-related agencies?
 - in the private sector?

The Ministry of Commerce and the agencies under its administrative control (e.g. the Bangladesh Tariff Commission) are conversant with the overall WTO framework, although there is room for improvement in the state of knowledge. Other concerned Ministries are generally aware of the specific Uruguay Round Agreement that is applicable to their area of work, but again the knowledge base is rather weak. In the private sector, leaders of various chambers of commerce and industry are more or less familiar with WTO rules and regulations, but their knowledge is far from satisfactory. It may be noted here that the Ministry of Commerce has been making efforts to disseminate knowledge relating to the WTO framework through holding seminars agencies.

- (k) What are your technical assistance requirements with regard to your compliance with the WTO Agreements?**

The WTO Agreements are not only complex but also demanding, in terms of their intellectual rigour as well as in terms of their institution building requirements for least-developed countries. Hence, to comply with these Agreements, Bangladesh needs technical assistance for institutional development as well as for human resource development in the area of trade policy administration and trade facilitation. More specifically, Bangladesh needs technical assistance in the following areas to comply with the WTO Agreements:

- To set up cells or local points in the relevant Ministries to carry out work related to the WTO Agreements. This will *inter alia* ensure that notification and other WTO obligations are fully implemented.
- To strengthen the Ministry of Commerce and its affiliated agencies (like the Bangladesh Tariff Commission and the Export Promotion Bureau) to enhance their capacities to effectively handle the increasing volume of WTO related work.
- To train officials in relevant Ministries, particularly Ministry of Commerce, and the various chambers of commerce and industry to enable them to fully comprehend the complexities of the WTO Agreements and thereby effectively deal with them.

(I) In which specific areas of the WTO Agreements do you have technical assistance needs (e.g. market access, agriculture, rules (anti-dumping, subsidies, import licensing, rules of origin, safeguards etc.), TBT and SPS, Services, TRIPS)?

Bangladesh has technical assistance needs in all the WTO Agreements specified above, viz., market access, agriculture, anti-dumping, subsidies, customs valuation, rules of origin, safeguard measures, TBT, SPS, services, TRIPs, TRIMs, environment, etc. This is briefly justified below.

Liberalization commitments, in the form of tariff reductions and removal of QRs and other non-tariff measures, made by Member countries in the Uruguay Round have widened access to export markets for both industrial and agricultural products. In order to derive the full benefits of such liberalization, Bangladesh has to develop new export products, satisfy product standard requirements in importing countries, collect the most recent market information available in different markets, etc. Bangladesh needs technical assistance in all these areas. In providing access to foreign suppliers of goods and services to her domestic market, Bangladesh would benefit from technical assistance in designing the extent, sequence and timing of liberalization which will be in conformity with her liberalization obligations under the Uruguay Round Agreement, taking due note of the transitional periods provided for under some Agreements and to which she is entitled as a least-developed country.

The Agreement on Agriculture aims at liberalizing trade in agricultural goods. Since liberalization is expected to lead to an increase in prices of agricultural goods including foodgrains, as a net foodgrain importing country Bangladesh is likely to be faced with an increase in her food import bill. The implication of this is that foodgrain production in Bangladesh has to be enhanced through achieving a rapid increase in productivity. Bangladesh needs technical assistance to enhance agricultural production and also to examine the issue of subsidizing agricultural production in the country without violating WTO rules.

The trade regime of Bangladesh has been continuously liberalized since the mid-1980s and the reform process is on-going. As is to be expected in an LDC undertaking trade liberalization, local industries in Bangladesh are facing stiff competition from imports and many of them are reportedly facing extinction. The Agreement on Safeguards permits a Member country to resort to safeguard action to restrict imports of a product for a temporary period by either increasing tariffs or imposing QRs. However, a temporary safeguard measure can be adopted only when it has been established through properly conducted investigations that a sudden increase in exports (both absolute and relative to domestic production) has caused or threatens to cause serious injury to the domestic industry. Bangladesh needs technical assistance to establish an administrative procedure and set-up to conduct investigations mentioned above which will be in conformity with WTO rules and regulations.

Local producers in Bangladesh often complain that foreign suppliers are resorting to unfair trade practices, either in the form of dumping or in the form of subsidized exports. The adoption of unfair trade practices by foreign suppliers results in extremely low prices of imported products which, in turn, is threatening the very existence of many local industries in Bangladesh, so it is alleged. Under the Agreement on Anti-Dumping Practices the importing country can levy anti-dumping duties on products that are being dumped. If the foreign supplier is resorting to export subsidization then under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the government of the importing country is authorized to levy countervailing duties on imported products that have benefited from subsidies. Thus, in case unfair trade practices are being adopted by foreign suppliers, the Government of Bangladesh is authorized by WTO rules to levy anti-dumping or countervailing duties, as the situation demands. However, the imposition of anti-dumping or countervailing duty requires the fulfilment of two conditions. First, investigations must be carried out at the national level to establish beyond any doubt that increased imports are causing material injury. Second, such investigation can be "ordinarily" initiated only after

the submission of a petition by the affected domestic industry, and furthermore, evidence has to be furnished to the effect that material injury is being caused to producers accounting for at least 25 per cent of total domestic production. Bangladesh needs technical assistance to set up and strengthen her administrative machinery in order to fulfil the above-mentioned two conditions for levying anti-dumping and/or countervailing duties.

Bangladesh needs technical assistance in the area of customs valuation. Valuation of goods for customs purposes in Bangladesh at present is based on the Brussels Definition of Value. The country is however under the obligation to change over to the WTO Valuation System (as laid down in the Agreement on Customs Valuation by 1 January 2000). This changeover will involve bringing about changes in relevant rules and procedures, further modernization and computerization of customs procedures and training of officials. There is therefore need for technical assistance to facilitate change-over to the WTO Customs Valuation System in Bangladesh.

The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade lays down international rules relating to product standards as well as technical regulations, compliance with which is mandatory in some cases and voluntary in others. Bangladesh's exports would have to meet these standards and technical regulations to gain access to foreign markets, particularly in the developed countries. The obtaining of ISO 9000 registration by Bangladesh's exporters is an example in this regard. The Agreement also requires each Member Country to establish "enquiry point" from which information on standards and technical regulations applicable in the country could be obtained by interested business enterprises. At the moment, Bangladesh neither has the expertise nor the institutional machinery that is needed for meeting standards and technical regulations requirements as contained in the Agreement. The need for technical assistance in this area is therefore obvious.

The Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, somewhat similar in intent to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, specifies principles and rules which Member countries must follow in applying SPS regulations to imported and exported products in order to protect their human, animal, plant life or health from the risk of disease. Like the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the provisions of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures also require that "enquiry points" should be established from which information on regulations could be obtained by interested exporters to Bangladesh and by importers. Agricultural exports from Bangladesh like tea, jute, shrimps and frozen food, vegetables etc. have to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary regulations applicable in the importing countries. Hence, information on such regulations applicable in Bangladesh's export markets has to be disseminated to exporters to facilitate market access. Furthermore, "enquiry points" have to be set up. Finally, SPS regulations have to be firmed up in Bangladesh in order to protect her human, animal, and plant life or health. Technical assistance is required to take all these steps.

The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property *inter alia* lays down standards for each of the following intellectual property rights: patents, copyright and related rights, trademarks, industrial designs, layout designs of integrated circuits, undisclosed information including trade secrets and geographical indication including appellation of origin. The Agreement lays emphasis on enforcement of its standards and rules by Member countries. As a least-developed country Bangladesh has an 11 years transitional period (i.e. up to 1 January 2006) to meet her obligations under this Agreement. Even though Bangladesh has some time to meet her TRIPs obligations, a lot of work needs to be done since significant changes would have to be made in the existing national legislations in the area of intellectual property right to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Agreement on TRIPs. Technical assistance is required for reviewing and appropriately changing national laws and regulations relating to the protection of intellectual property rights. Furthermore, the administrative machinery required

for enforcement of intellectual property rights needs to be put in place before the end of the transitional period. Technical assistance will also be needed for this purpose.

The provisions of the General Agreement on Trade in Services do not impose any mandatory obligations on Bangladesh to make any major changes in its policies in the service sector. However, the service sector or Bangladesh is weak and not very efficient. So, in order to be able to face competition from foreign suppliers as trade in services is gradually liberalized in the future, the service sector in Bangladesh needs to be strengthened. It is in this effort that Bangladesh could well do with technical assistance. Moreover, technical assistance could be used to develop computer skills in the country so that computer services like accounting and doing simple administrative work could be exported to foreign companies, particularly air and insurance companies, who are looking to developing and least-developed countries to get such work done at lower cost.

The foregoing paragraphs have briefly delineated some of the technical assistance needs of Bangladesh with respect to specific WTO Agreements. Needless to mention, this is not an exhaustive list of technical assistance requirements, since further study may reveal the need for assistance with respect to some of the other WTO Agreements and even in case of Agreements noted above.

B. Obstacles to trade expansion

Obstacles to trade encompassing problems in export markets, infrastructure, human capacities, institutional bottlenecks, trade financing problems and gaps in trade information can inhibit a least-developed country from taking full advantage of trading opportunities.

Supply constraints, including institutional bottle-necks

(a) What are the main bottlenecks inhibiting the development of sustained *export* capacity of goods and services (e.g. customs facilitation, freight charges, quality management, elimination of cumbersome legal and administrative procedures, paucity of human skills, access at international prices to imported inputs, or inadequate telecommunication, port and transport facilities etc.)?

- **Land-locked countries may face additional problems, such as having to ship using costly or unreliable transport and ports systems. In case this applies to your country, please indicate such problems. What kind of technical assistance would help you work out these problems?**

The main bottlenecks inhibiting the development of sustained export capacity of goods and services are :-

- (i) narrow industrial base resulting in narrow export base;
- (ii) lengthy and complicated customs clearance procedures;
- (iii) relatively high freight charges for export by air, and to some extent by sea;
- (iv) inadequate facilities for quality management;
- (v) time-consuming legal and administrative procedures;
- (vi) constraints in export production caused by shortage of skilled management personnel and skilled labour, and absence of training facilities for skill development;
- (vii) inadequate supply and comparatively high cost of telecommunication services, port and transport facilities, and erratic power supply;
- (viii) shortage of information on export markets;
- (ix) inadequate export finance; and

(x) market access problems.

(b) Are there any *institutional* bottlenecks, which may impede the efficient conduct of your country's trade policies? Provide details. For example, what are the problems perceived by the different actors, e.g. exporters, producers, service providers (banks, insurance companies, quality control, transporters etc.), professional associations and Ministries? Are problems mainly perceived in the area of:

- (i) human resources**
- (ii) management of the institution**
- (iii) financial and material resources**
- (iv) communication**

Yes, there are institutional bottlenecks impeding the efficient conduct of the country's trade policies. To start with, at the official level there is a lack of coordination among the agencies/institutions dealing with trade policy, and this, together with incomplete understanding of the objectives and working of trade policy on the part of officials, has often resulted in sluggish implementation of policies. This, coupled with rent-seeking behaviour of some officials of these agencies/institutions, has often led to cost escalation of producers and exporters. To a large extent, the private sector is not well conversant with the finer details of trade policy, and this has sometimes adversely affected export performance. Exporters frequently complain of shortage and timely availability of working capital supplied by banks which, by and large is attributable to a shortage of financial resources and weak and inefficient management of the banks, particularly the nationalized banks. There is a virtual lack of quality control facilities in the Government as well as the private sector.

The efficiency of conducting trade policy, and thence its effectiveness in Bangladesh, has thus been adversely affected by problems existing in the areas of human resources, organization management, financial and material resources and communication.

(c) What are the main bottlenecks to *export diversification*?

The main bottlenecks to export diversification are:-

- (i) inadequate information regarding the nature and pattern of demand obtaining in various export markets;
- (ii) inadequate investment in new areas of production having export potential;
- (iii) lack of capital and technology;
- (iv) lack of entrepreneurial drive;
- (v) lack of infrastructural facilities; and
- (vi) shortage of other support facilities.

(d) If *investment in the production of goods and services is inadequate*, what are the main reasons? Please elaborate them (e.g. structural constraints, difficulties in attracting foreign investment, limited enterprise development, financing, lack of appropriate technology, etc.)

As noted in (c) above, inadequate investment is a major problem constraining export diversification. The main reasons behind inadequacy of investment are:

- (i) structural constraints like shortage of energy, lack of telecommunication facilities, inadequate transport and port facilities, etc.;

- (ii) difficulty in attracting foreign investment, primarily due to lack of adequate infrastructural facilities, shortage of skilled labour and labour disturbances, lack of continuity in economic policies from one political regime to another etc.;
- (iii) limited enterprise development emanating from relative shortage of entrepreneurs, market uncertainties, shy capital, relatively quicker and often higher return from investment in trade activities, labour problem, etc.;
- (iv) shy domestic investment attributable to factors mentioned above;
- (v) inadequate bank financing in both local and foreign currencies; and
- (vi) Lack of transfer and indigenous development of appropriate technology.

(e) Is there a national policy to encourage export-related investment opportunities? Please elaborate. What arrangements are in place for reviewing, drafting and negotiating contractual arrangements with foreign investors?

In keeping with her strategy of export-oriented growth, Bangladesh has got a number of policies in place which have been designed to encourage export-related investment. In addition to the pursuit of import liberalization policy which aims at stimulating investment in production for export by removing the anti-export bias, direct export incentive schemes are in operation to encourage export-related investment. These incentive schemes include Special Bonded Warehouse facilities, Duty Drawback facilities and 25 per cent cash compensation in lieu of Duty Drawback; the objective of these incentive schemes is to encourage export-related investment by providing exporters access to duty-free imported inputs. Export Processing Zones (EPZ) have been set up in Dhaka and Chittagong to encourage investment in export production; not only are infrastructural and other support facilities much better in EPZs compared to other areas, firms operating in EPZs also have access to duty-free inputs. The Government has recently granted permission to set up private EPZS. A liberal Foreign Investment Policy is in place to attract private foreign investment, particularly with the aim of promoting export-related investment. Various incentives like providing national treatment to foreign investment, protection of foreign investment by law, duty-free import facilities for export production, unhindered repatriation of capital and profit, tax holiday; etc. are available for foreign investors. Foreign investors can have 100 per cent ownership or can form joint ventures with local partners; in the latter case partners are free to decide about terms and conditions. Contractual arrangements with foreign investors are negotiated, drafted and reviewed by the Board of Investment within the framework of the Foreign Investment Policy.

(f) What are the main obstacles to the transfer, development and acquisition of technology? Is there any national policy/strategy in this area? Please elaborate.

The transfer, development and acquisition of technology (process/product) requires:

- (i) regular and appreciable interaction among Universities/R&D Organization/Entrepreneurs;
- (ii) media (e.g. TIFAC- Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council of India); and
- (iii) commercialization of (process/product) R&D results (e.g. NRDC- National Research Development Corporation of India and NCTT - National Centre for Transfer of Technology of Pakistan).

At the moment, Bangladesh has no institutional set-up to run the above three processes/steps smoothly. This is the main obstacle to the transfer, development and acquisition of technology in Bangladesh. This is not surprising since the National Science and Technology Policy was enacted on 25 February 1986 and has not been revised and updated since then. However, the Government is considering to establish a National Centre for Transfer of Technology in the near future.

(g) What are your technical assistance or other assistance needs with respect to supply constraints?

Technical assistance needs with respect to supply constraints are:

- (i) investment promotion, particularly providing funds for financing export;
- (ii) development of physical infrastructure (e.g., telecommunication services, port and transport facilities, etc.);
- (iii) human resources development through providing training on skill development for government officials serving in trade-related organizations as well as management personnel and production workers in the private sector;
- (iv) streamlining and simplifying legal and administrative procedures relating to trade through undertaking legal and administrative reform;
- (v) advisory and support services in the area of developing new export products and improving the quality of existing export products, product design improvement, packaging, etc;
- (vi) developing trade information network system;
- (vii) establishing an institutional set-up which will facilitate transfer, development and acquisition of appropriate technology
- (viii) labour market development; and
- (ix) multilateral donor agencies may persuade Governments of developed and developing countries to encourage their investors through fiscal and other incentives to invest in least-developed countries like Bangladesh.

Trade Promotion and Trade Support Services

Trade promotion comprises an integrated set of technical and financial services to enhance the global competitiveness of *enterprises* and thus facilitate their entry and increasing participation in international trade.

(h) Do your enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises, experience difficulties in expanding their exports? What are these problems in the major export sectors?

Small and medium enterprises experience difficulties in many areas in expanding their exports. The main difficulties SMEs face are:

- (i) dearth of trade-related market information and communication facilities;
- (ii) lack of technological capacity and technical know-how;
- (iii) inadequacy of skilled manpower and institutional capacities;
- (iv) weak infrastructure;
- (v) shortage of energy;
- (vi) lack of finance; and
- (vii) poor marketing capability.

These problems as faced in the major export sectors, are briefly described below:

Ready-made Garments

There is a lack of backward linkage industries and consequently value addition is only about 25 per cent. Heavy dependence on imported raw materials leads to longer lead time. Stringent (3-stage

transformation) Rules of Origin in EU GSP Scheme has restricted in market access for high value-added items.

Jute and Jute Goods

These goods face severe competition from synthetic substitutes. Lack of product development and diversification is a major problem in this sector. Other problems are inadequate finance, poor management, and labour inefficiency and unrest.

Leather and Leather Goods

Expansion of this sector is constrained by use of out-dated technology, lack of product diversification, weak physical and institutional infrastructure, inadequate capital, shortage of skilled workers, and inadequate export market information.

Frozen Food

Inadequate finance has hindered scientific culture of shrimp and growth of adequate hatcheries. As a result, traditional method of shrimp cultivation is practised resulting in low levels of output. There is a lack of adherence to the strict quality standard requirements of export market; consequently, market access has been restricted.

Agricultural and Horticultural Products

Problems in this sector are absence of processing facilities, lack of technology, weak infrastructural and institutional support, inadequate finance, and upper-end market entry problem.

(i) What are the problems for your enterprises in obtaining reliable and up-to-date information on export/import business opportunities?

Problems include lack of institutional infrastructure and skills to access, collect, store, process and disseminate trade information from abroad by using modern information technology (Internet, for example). The problem is compounded by non-availability of relevant journals/ publications.

The Global Trade Point Network (GTPN) introduced by UNCTAD facilitates trade all over the world through quick and smooth electronic dissemination of up-to-date trade-related information. Much of the existing gap in global trade information in Bangladesh can be filled up through the introduction of Trade Point in the country.

(j) Can your enterprises offer products of internationally acceptable design, quality and packaging to foreign buyers? If not, what are the problems ?

Design, quality and packaging are of acceptable international level in a limited number of product lines, e.g., ready-made garments, ceramic and melamine tableware, leather products, etc. However, the majority of products suffer from shortcomings in design, poor quality and inferior packaging. Absence of design development centres and lack of facilities for ensuring product quality are major obstacles in this area. Furthermore, there is need for up-to-date information relating to consumer preferences in export markets.

(k) What problems, other than in terms of trade policy, do you anticipate in developing the export of services (e.g. computer software, tourism)?

Other than trade policy, the main problems in developing export of services like computer software and tourism arise from lack of infrastructure, finance and trained manpower.

(l) What are the technical/professional problems encountered by trade support institutions (e.g. trade promotion council, chamber of commerce, exporters association etc.) in your country in providing their services to export/import enterprises?

Technical/professional problems encountered by the national trade promotion organization (the Export Promotion Bureau) are under-developed human resources, lack of access to relevant technology and highly inadequate research and development. Development of human resources will involve improvement of knowledge relating to product development, diversification, marketing, etc. There is also ample scope for imparting training to personnel on key issues of international trade, trade information, etc. There is also a need for procurement of training equipment, trade-related publications, etc. for strengthening the institutional set-up.

Bangladesh has 55 chambers and 135 trade associations. Out of these only about 6 chambers and 10 trade associations are in a position to provide trade promotion services. But these also lack finance, human resources, up-to-date information technology, training equipment, etc. to render satisfactory services.

(m) What problems and deficiencies are experienced by enterprises in their international purchasing and inventory management?

The problems are: limited access to world market, lack of trade information in respect of availability, price, quality, etc. of goods, and lack of warehouse/port facilities to store imported goods and maintain proper inventory.

(n) What are the present availability and arrangements for trade finance facilities (e.g. export credit guarantees, etc.)? Are there any perceived deficiencies in this area?

Trade finance facilities, particularly in the area of export, are as follows:

- (i) pre-shipment financing in local currency by commercial banks;
- (ii) pre-shipment financing in foreign currency by commercial banks through Export Development Fund,
- (iii) post-shipment financing by commercial banks; and
- (iv) export Credit Guarantee Scheme administered by Sadharan Bima Corporation (i.e. General Insurance Corporation).

Shortage of funds is a major deficiency in this area. Furthermore the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme is bedevilled with problems like delay in settlement of claims, premium payment controversy and poor recovery. Established exporters normally do not face any problem but new exporters face problems in getting funds as the banks usually insist on submission of collateral.

(o) What are the main problems in the way of improving export/import management skills of your business enterprises? Do you have training programmes in the country? What are the deficiencies?

Most of the exporters/importers are new entrants and some are in the process of entering. They need to be informed and trained in respect of trade laws, procedure, documentation, procurement of trade information regarding export, import, indenting and investment. Only limited training facilities in these areas are available in the country. EPB, BMDC and BIBM in the public sector and DCCI and BASC in the private sector are providing some training. Training facilities available are however not sufficient to cope with the demand. These facilities need to be expanded on an urgent basis, and for this purpose finance, skilled manpower and technology are necessary. Actual training needs are to be assessed, target groups are to be made aware, professional resource persons are to be developed and attracted, and coordination has to be achieved among the trade promotion bodies.

(p) Does your trade representation service actively promote your trade? What are the weaknesses?

Although trade representation service is presently being actively oriented towards promotion of trade, there are some difficulties which persist. Available trade representation services are limited due to lack of fund. Moreover, training of trade representatives need to be improved.

(q) Briefly describe your technical assistance needs in the area of trade promotion and support services.

- (i) Establishment of a Trade Point;
- (ii) building up the research capability of various trade promoting organizations and establishing linkage among them;
- (iii) strengthening training programmes for skill development in the public as well as private sector;
- (iv) setting up and strengthening design development centres and quality management institute/organization;
- (v) improving trade finance facilities; and
- (vi) building up modern information technological capability in the country.

Market Access

(r) What are your main market access problems?

The main market access problems are:

- (i) non-tariff and para-tariff barriers;
- (ii) stringent quality and standards requirements;
- (iii) stringent Rules of origin requirements; and
- (iv) strict environmental standards.

(s) What specific problems or barriers, and in which countries, are most troublesome for your exporters?

Specific problems faced in major export markets are as follows:

USA and Canada

- Quota restriction on RMG
- Stringent quality requirements like HACCP for frozen food
- Eco-labelling requirement for RMG
- Use of child labour

EU

- Stringent (3-stage transformation) Rules of Origin requirements for knitted garments under GSP scheme
- Stringent quality requirements for frozen food
- Eco-labelling requirement for woven and knitted garments
- Use of child labour

India

- Non-tariff and para-tariff barriers on various exports

Other countries

Similar problems are faced in Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It is apprehended that technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures will pose serious market access difficulties for Bangladesh's exports in the near future.

(t) Regional and sub-regional trading arrangements (RTAs); please list RTAs to which your country belongs. Are you satisfied with the performance with these RTAs? Please state the problems of each. Do you have suggestions on how to solve these?

Bangladesh is a member of the following RTAs:

- (i) Bangkok Agreement
- (ii) SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)
- (iii) Bangladesh - India - Sri Lanka - Thailand Economic Cooperation (BISTEC)
- (iv) Developing Countries -8 (D-8)

Bangladesh's exports to other contracting states have not increased significantly under the Bangkok Agreement. Tariff Concessions exchanged under this Agreement have been confined to a limited number of products. If the coverage of tariff concessions is expanded, then positive results in terms of trade expansion may be expected.

Two rounds of trade negotiations have been conducted under SAPTA. Total number of items on which tariff concessions have been exchanged till now exceeds 2000. Efforts have also been made for withdrawal of non-tariff barriers in member states. In so far as Bangladesh is concerned, the beneficial impact of SAPTA on her export expansion has been very limited. A major reason for this has been the inclusion of a large number of items of little export interest to Bangladesh in the National Schedule of Concessions of the other member states, and the fact that tariff cuts have not been deep enough. Stringent Rules of Origin have also hindered export expansion of Bangladesh. The situation can be expected to improve provided there is greater political commitment to regional trade expansion within the SAARC region which will hopefully result in the removal of the impediments to intra-regional trade expansion.

Since D-8 and BISTEC have been formed only very recently, it is not possible to comment on their performance at this point in time.

(u) Are there any problems in utilizing the existing market access preferences, such as GSP, GSTP? Please state the nature of problems relating to each of these.

Yes, there are problems in utilizing market access preferences under the GSP and GSTP schemes. These are noted below:

GSP

- Limited product coverage; some of the GSP schemes exclude products of export interest to Bangladesh;
- stringent Rules of Origin criteria which is difficult for Bangladesh to meet;
- procedural complexities; and
- frequent changes in the scheme.

GSTP

- Product coverage and margin of tariff preferences are limited;
- existence of non-tariff barriers for some products;
- stringent Rules of Origin criteria; and
- complicated procedures to be followed for availing the scheme

(v) What are your technical assistance needs with respect to market access?

- In-depth analysis of the present market access problems in major export markets and finding ways of overcoming them;
- advisory support for product development & product diversification;
- sponsoring product-wise marketing missions and participation in international trade fairs;
- strengthening institutions and procedures relating to quality control;
- establishing design development centres and fashion institutes; and
- lobbying support for rationalizing GSP and GSTP schemes in favour of least-developed countries (e.g. increasing the product coverage, relaxing Rules of Origin criteria, etc.).

C. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is normally provided to developing and least-developed countries to build or enhance their human resources and institutional capacities, provide trade information and trade-related legal support, as well as improve their supply capabilities in order to make them more active players in the field of multilateral trade.

(a) To the extent this kind of information is easily available, could you please briefly describe what trade-related assistance you have received over the past five years from bilateral and multilateral sources and what projects/programmes are presently under consideration in this area?

Major trade-related assistance received along with their sources are listed below:

- (i) Institutional Development of Bangladesh Tariff Commission (Phase-1) - World Bank
- (ii) Institutional Development of Bangladesh Tariff Commission (Phase-2) - World Bank
- (iii) Uruguay Round Study Project - TJNDP
- (iv) Excise, Taxes and Customs Data Computerization (ETAC) - World Bank
- (v) Export Development Project - World Bank
- (vi) Export Development Fund - World Bank
- (vii) Export Credit Guarantee Scheme - USAID

- (viii) Export Development and Promotion - UNDP/ITC
- (ix) DCCI - ZDH Partnership Project (for providing training to SMES) funded by German Federation of Small Business
- (x) DCCI - GTZ Business Advisory Service Project
- (xi) Technical Assistance to the Bangladesh Finished Leather and Leather Goods Exporters' Association - European Union
- (xii) Technical Assistance to Bangla - Craft (Handicraft industry) - European Union.

(b) Please summarize your technical assistance needs as well as other needs as reflected in this check-list. Please rank them in terms of priority.

Technical assistance needs as well as other needs are summarized and presented below in terms of their priority (number indicates rank):

1. Institutional strengthening and human resource development in relevant Ministries and Government agencies, particularly Ministry of Commerce and its affiliated agencies, to effectively handle work relating to compliance with various WTO Agreements. More specifically, this will involve beefing up national capacity for meeting product standards and technical regulations requirements in major export markets of Bangladesh, establishing the administrative mechanisms required to conduct investigations and complete other formalities related to the levying of safeguard measures, anti-dumping duties and counter-veiling duties, establishing "enquiry points", changing existing national legislation in the area of intellectual property right to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Agreement on TRIPS, strengthen selected service sub-sectors (e.g., telecommunications financial services, etc.), stepping up research efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, etc.
2. Development of physical infrastructure.
3. Advisory and support services for developing new export products and improving the quality, design and packaging of existing export products.
4. Developing a modern trade information network including establishment of a Trade Point.
5. Investment promotion with particular emphasis on improvement of trade finance facilities.
6. In-depth analysis of market access problems faced in major export markets and finding ways of overcoming these.
7. Strengthening the existing institutional set-up and developing human resources to facilitate transfer, development and acquisition of appropriate technology.
8. Training for skill development of officials serving in trade promotion organizations in the public and private sectors.
9. Building up institutional capability in formulation and implementation of trade policy matters.
10. Sponsoring product-wise marketing missions abroad and participation in international trade fairs.

(c) In the light of the information you have been able to provide so far in response to the questions in this checklist, what types of information are, in your view, still missing or could be improved upon? In order to assist you in providing this missing information, would you need technical assistance?

Questions in this check-list have comprehensively covered all relevant areas and hence, in our view, no information is missing.

(d) Does your country have the technological capacity and human resources to make use of the new information/communication technology tools such as CD-ROM, the Internet etc.? What assistance would you need to enable your country to use these tools in the context of training and, more generally, in the context of trade development?

Bangladesh has limited technological capacity and human resources to make use of the new information/communication technology tools such as CD-ROM, the Internet, etc.

Assistance is needed for undertaking extensive training programmes in this area as well as for making trade-related software and infrastructural facilities easily available.

Integrated Response

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question A(k) :</p> <p><u>Technical assistance requirements as regards compliance with WTO Agreements</u></p>		
<p>Bangladesh needs technical assistance for institutional development as well as for human resources development in the area of trade policy administration and trade facilitation. More specifically, Bangladesh needs technical assistance in the following areas to comply with the WTO Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To set up cells or focal points in the relevant Ministries to carry out work related to the WTO Agreements. This will, inter alia, ensure that notification and other WTO obligations are fully implemented. - To strengthen the Ministry of Commerce and its affiliated agencies (like the Bangladesh Tariff Commission and the Export Promotion Bureau) to enhance their capacities to effectively handle the increasing volume of WTO related work. 	<p>UNCTAD</p>	<p>UNCTAD will provide training and advisory services with a view to responding to the priority needs of selected Government and creating capacities in selected institutions. It will organize training seminars for trainers on trade policy matters.* (ICP, Obj. 2.1)</p> <p>(These activities are planned to be undertaken under the Government's Integrated Country Programme - ICP - For Strengthening the Supply Capacity For Exportable Goods and Services. (1997-2002). This ICP has been developed following an UNCTAD led inter-agency mission involving ITC, UNDP, and ESCAP, which visited Bangladesh in May - June 1997).</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>Question A(k) (cont.) :</p> <p>- To train officials in relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Commerce, and the various chambers of commerce and industry to enable them to fully comprehend the complexities of the WTO Agreements and thereby effectively deal with them.</p>	UNDP	<p>Through its Export Development and Promotion project, UNDP is currently strengthening the capacity of the of the Export and Promotion Bureau (by providing it with adequate legal and functional powers) to effectively discharge its role as the national co-ordination agency for export development and export promotion. Although WTO was created after the design of this project, it is not excluded that in the framework of its implementation some training activities be carried out specifically to strengthen the capacity of the EPB to handle WTO related work.</p>
	World Bank	<p>The World Bank intends that the project currently being negotiated will become operational in 1998. It will provide staff training and outside consultants to augment the capacity of the Commerce Ministry to analyze trade policy issues and of the BTC to conduct investigations under the safeguard, anti-dumping and countervailing duty provisions of the WTO agreements. Other elements of the project are mentioned under A(l), A(m), B(g), B(q) and B(v).</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question A(k) (cont.) :	WTO	<p>1. With respect to strengthening human resources the following will be undertaken by the WTO :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional specialized workshops on specific WTO agreements will be organized for English-speaking Least-Developed countries in Asia and in the Pacific (1998 and 1999). - A three-week trade policy course for English-speaking Least-Developed countries (including Bangladesh) will be held (1998 and 1999). <p>This course will contain general training for enhancing negotiating skills for participation in multilateral trade negotiations.</p> <p>2. With respect to implementation of the WTO Agreements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh for the drafting / alignment of its own legislation to WTO obligations in the areas of anti-dumping, safeguards and customs valuation as well as TRIPS (see A(1)) as well as for its notification requirements (1998-2000)
	ITC	<p>Training of officials and management personnel has been and will continue to be provided by means of dissemination seminars on UR agreements under the ITC Uruguay Round Follow-up Programme.</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question A(l) :</p> <p><u>Technical assistance needs as regards specific WTO Agreements</u></p>		
<p>Bangladesh has technical assistance needs in all the WTO Agreements specified:</p> <p>Market Access: Bangladesh would benefit from technical assistance in designing the extent, sequence, and timing of liberalization which will be in conformity with her liberalization obligations under the Uruguay Round Agreement, taking due note of the transitional periods provided for under some Agreements and to which she is entitled as a least-developed country</p>	WTO	Please refer to A(k)
<p>Agreement in Agriculture: Bangladesh needs technical assistance to enhance agricultural production and also to examine the issue of subsidizing agricultural production in the country without violating WTO rules</p>		
<p>Safeguards: Bangladesh needs technical assistance to establish an administrative procedure and set-up to conduct investigations - that a sudden increase in exports (both absolute and relative to domestic production) - has caused or threatens to cause serious injury to the domestic industry, which would be in conformity with WTO rules and regulations.</p>	World Bank	Please refer to A(k)

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question A(l) (cont.):	WTO	Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh during the period 1998/2000; this assistance will consist in training national administration staff responsible for the implementation of this Agreement.
Anti-Dumping: Technical assistance is needed to set up and strengthen the administrative machinery in order to fulfil two conditions. First, investigations which would establish beyond any doubt that increased imports are causing material injury. Second, such investigation can be "ordinarily" initiated only after the submission of a petition by the affected domestic industry, and furthermore, evidence has to be furnished to the effect that material injury is being caused to producers accounting for at least 25 per cent of total domestic production.	World Bank	Please refer to A(k)
	WTO	Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh during the period 1998/2000; this assistance will comprise: a) assessment of the requesting country needs in the contingent trade remedies area; b) on the basis of the results of this assessment, technical assistance will be provided on : (i) drafting national legislation; (ii) establishing domestic trade remedy system (iii) training national administration staff responsible for the implementation of the trade remedy system

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>Question A(l) (cont.):</p> <p>Customs Valuation: Technical assistance is needed to facilitate the change-over to the WTO Customs Valuation System - which will involve bringing about changes in relevant rules and procedures, further modernization and computerization of customs procedures, and training of officials.</p>	IMF	<p>IMF to provide assistance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To review and update customs legislation and regulations to align them to WTO rules and standards including aligning the customs valuation system to WTO requirements and, 2) To rationalize the import tariff and coordinate it with the domestic indirect tax system, to assure efficient collection of revenues (1998: commitment in principle)
	UNCTAD	<p>ASYCUDA has already been installed in Bangladesh. In the future, UNCTAD will review the current customs operations with a view to strengthening custom management and facilitating procedures in areas not included in the first ASYCUDA project. UNCTAD will train customs staff and brokers to make maximum use of the ASYCUDA++ system and will assist in implementing ASYCUDA++ in a nation-wide coverage.* (ICP, Obj. 3.5)</p>
	World Bank	<p>The project under development will identify operational, monitorable programs that will improve the efficiency of customs administration (see A(k)).</p>
	WTO	<p>Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh during the period 1998/2000 for aligning customs valuation legislation with WTO Agreement.</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>Question A(l) (cont.):</p> <p>Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade: Bangladesh neither has the expertise nor the institutional machinery that is needed for meeting standards and technical regulations requirements as contained in the Agreement.</p>	World Bank	The project will include assistance to develop enterprise and industry level capacity to meet ISO 9000 standards. Emphasis on support at the enterprise and industry level. (see A(k))
<p>Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures: Technical assistance is required for agricultural products to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary regulations applicable in the importing countries to facilitate market access. Furthermore, "enquiry points" have to be set up. Finally, SPS regulations have to be firmed up in Bangladesh in order to protect her human, animal, and plant life or health.</p>	ITC	A technical workshop on this subject will be organised under the Integrated Country Programme for Strengthening Supply Capacity for Exportable Goods and Services of Bangladesh (ICP).*
	World Bank	The project will include assistance to enterprises and to industry associations to meet product standards in major export markets -- to conduct the tests necessary to demonstrate compliance; also assistance to develop a national-level standards accrediting agency (see A(k)).
<p>Agreement on TRIPS: Technical assistance is required for reviewing and appropriately changing national laws and regulations relating to the protection of intellectual property rights. Furthermore, the administrative machinery required for enforcement of intellectual property rights needs to be put in place before the end of the transitional period.</p>	WTO	Assistance will be extended to Bangladesh in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and WTO providing for WIPO legal-technical assistance relating to the TRIPS Agreement.

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>Question A(1) (cont.):</p> <p>Agreement on Trade in Services: Technical assistance could be used to develop computer skills in the country so that compute services like accounting and doing simple administrative work could be exported to foreign companies, particularly air and insurance companies, who are looking to developing and least-developed countries to get such work done at lower cost.</p>	ITC	<p>A technical workshop will be organised in late 1997 to enhance the awareness of the export potential of services at the Government, trade association and enterprise levels and to provide training in how to approach new markets.</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question A(m):</p> <p><u>Assessment of the existing trade analysis and negotiating capacities</u></p>		
<p>Bangladesh, like many LDCs, suffers seriously from constricted access to current and comprehensive trade related information. Technical assistance in terms of setting up of a trade data base and also developing adequate human resources capable of using the facility may generate a number of positive externalities.</p>	ITC	<p>The trade information services of the institutions concerned will be strengthened under the Integrated Country Programme* mentioned under A(1) by means of consultancy and training.</p>
	ITC/ UNCTAD	<p>A Trade Point has been established in Dacca. The Trade Point will be made operational to serve the business community and the Government in cooperation with the chambers of commerce. (ICP, Obj. 2.5)</p>
	UNCTAD	<p>Assistance to trade analysis will continue to be provided through the TRAINS CD-ROM.</p> <p>Assistance in its use will be provided through advisory missions and workshops.*</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question A(m) (cont.):		
	UNDP	Under the Export Development and Promotion project, UNDP is to set up a network of market intelligence and trade information on selected markets and products of specific interest to Bangladesh and available to manufacturers/exporters. It is also strengthening the Chittagong Trade information Centre and plans to establish trade information units in EPB branch offices in Khuna and Rajshahi. EPB staff will be trained in collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of trade information, including management of electronic database and sources.
	World Bank	The project will provide support for enterprises and for industry associations to identify the problems they face, to develop remedies for those problems that are best resolved at an enterprise level and to effectively represent their views to government on negotiating and general policy issues (see A(k)).

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question B(g) :</p> <p><u>Technical assistance needs as regards supply constraints</u></p>		
<p>(i) Investment promotion, particularly providing funds for financing export</p>	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will review the Bangladesh investment environment, including policies, laws, incentives, and institutional structures (including EPZs), used to attract foreign investment, taking into account the experience of neighbouring countries and internationally established best practices in investment promotion.*
	World Bank	A study is under way to determine how serious problems of trade financing are and how to solve them.
<p>(ii) Development of physical infrastructure (e.g. telecommunication services, port and transport facilities, etc.)</p>	UNCTAD	The Rail-Tracker component of UNCTAD's Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) has already been installed in Bangladesh Railways. It could be extended to link the physical points to other transport modes on the basis of existing software.*

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question B(g) (cont.):	World Bank	<p>The World Bank will support a study of port modernisation.</p> <p>The World Bank will support a study to identify and quantify needs.</p> <p>The World Bank will support a study on road rehabilitation and maintenance: improving roads, bridges essential for efficiency in the transport of industrial, agricultural, export and import goods.</p> <p>The World Bank will support a study on telecommunications sector reform.</p> <p>All of these studies are intended to develop specific investment programs.</p>
(iii) Human resources development through providing training on skill development for government officials serving in trade-related organizations as well as management personnel and production workers in the private sector	ITC	Please refer to A(l). Training opportunities will be offered to both government officials and personnel concerned in the private sector by means of direct training, training of trainers and curricula development.
	UNCTAD	Through the Training for Trainers (TFT) programmes, UNCTAD will increase the management skills of private operators as well as those of officials in trade-related public organizations. (ICP, Obj. 2.4)
	UNDP	Through its Export Development and Promotion project, UNDP is assisting the Trade Representation Service in upgrading its capacity for promoting Bangladesh exports.
	World Bank	Please refer to A(l)
	WTO	Please refer to A(k)

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question B(g) (cont.): (iv) Streamlining and simplifying legal and administrative procedures relating to trade through undertaking legal and administrative reform	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will carry out a trade efficiency assessment with a view to simplifying trade formalities, procedures and operations.
	World Bank	The projects listed under A(k) above will provide assistance to identify procedural constraints on export.
	WTO	Please refer to A(k)
(v) Advisory and support services in the area of developing new export products and improving the quality of existing export products, product design improvement, packaging, etc.	ITC	New products will be identified for product development and adaptation under the ICP.*
	UNDP	One of the objectives of the UNDP Export Development and Promotion project, is to promote the expansion and diversification of export product base and markets for selected product groups (ready-made garments, knitwear/hosiery, leather and leather product, electronic, vegetable and fresh fruits, ceramic Tableware, stuffed Toys, Jewellery). This will done by improving product development and adaptation, quality control, design and packaging at enterprise level; enlarging their existing export market shares and disseminating the findings and recommendations within the industry for obtaining multiplier effect within the industry, and government for appropriate policies and measures.
	World Bank	The programs listed under A(k) above will support private sector expenditures to improve design, packaging, marketing, etc.
(vi) Developing trade information network system	ITC/ UNCTAD	Please refer to A(m)

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question B(g) (cont.):	UNDP	Please refer to A(m)
	World Bank	The programs listed under A(k) above will support development of non-governmental information systems, e.g., among enterprises, industry associations.
(vii) Establishing an institutional set-up which will facilitate transfer, development and acquisition of appropriate technology	UNCTAD	<p>UNCTAD will prepare an integrated project on investment, entrepreneurship development and technology, with as its main objectives:</p> <p>(a) the enhancement of the legal and institutional environment relating to investment flows. See also B(g)(i)</p> <p>(b) the facilitation of the integration of science, technology and innovation policies with development strategies and</p> <p>(c) enhancing the technological capacity building and strengthening their relevance to the rest of the economy.* (ICP, Obj. 3.4)</p>
	World Bank	The programs listed under A(k) above will include sub-sector programs to support technology acquisition at the enterprise, industry level.
(viii) Labour market development		
(ix) Multilateral donor agencies may persuade Governments of developed and developing countries to encourage their investors through fiscal and other incentives to invest in least-developed countries like Bangladesh.		

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question B(q) :</p> <p><u>Technical assistance needs in the area of trade promotion and support services</u></p>		
(i) Establishment of a Trade Point	ITC/ UNCTAD	The Export Promotion Bureau will be assisted to strengthen the functions to be carried out by the Trade Point under ICP (Obj. 2.5). Please refer to A(m)
(ii) Building up the research capability of various trade promoting organizations and establishing linkage among them	ITC	Training and consultancy will be provided to the institutions concerned under the ICP.*
	World Bank	Projects listed under A(k) above will support development of non-governmental information systems, e.g., among enterprises, industry associations
(iii) Strengthening training programs for skill development in the public as well as private sector	ITC	Please refer to B(g).
	UNCTAD	This will be undertaken under the TRAINFORTRADE program.* (ICP, Obj. 2.4)

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question B(q) (cont.) :	World Bank	<p>Projects listed under A(k) will include:</p> <p>In government ministries: support to increase capacity to manage WTO-related policy matters</p> <p>In the Bangladesh Tariff Commission: support to increase capacity to do economic analysis of tariffs and other trade instruments, to conduct safeguard and other WTO-sanctioned trade remedy investigations.</p> <p>In the private sector: support to increase capacity to identify and to analyze business opportunities</p>
	WTO	Please refer to A (k)
(iv) Setting up and strengthening design development centres and quality management institute/organization	ITC	Please refer to B(g)
	World Bank	Please refer to B(g)(v)
(v) Improving trade finance facilities	World Bank	Please refer to B(g)(i)
(vi) Building up modern information technological capability in the country	World Bank	Please refer to B(g)(vi)
	WTO	<p>One computer will be provided by the WTO to the focal point on WTO matters in the Trade Ministry .This includes a link up to Internet (1998).</p> <p>Training on access and use of Internet resources and of CD Roms will be provided to Bangladesh (1998).</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question B(v) :</p> <p><u>Technical assistance as regards market access</u></p>		
<p>- In-depth analysis of the present market access problems in major export markets and finding ways of overcoming them</p>	ITC	Under ICP, market demand studies will be carried out, on basis of which export strategies to penetrate target markets will be formulated.
	UNCTAD	The country will benefit from the GSP Programme which aims at increasing GSP utilization with a better understanding of trade laws governing market access conditions in major markets. Information on GSP and other preferential tariffs are available in the TRAINS CD-ROM which is available to Bangladesh.
	UNDP	Through its Export Development and Promotion project, UNDP is also assisting the government and the private sector increase their knowledge of market access requirements, competition and conditions in target export markets. It is also supporting activities designed to test the target market for export opportunities.
	World Bank	Please refer to B(g)(v) and B(g)(vi)
<p>- Advisory support for product development & product diversification</p>	ITC	Please refer to B(g) and B(q)
	World Bank	Please refer to B(g)(v) and B(g)(vi)
<p>- Sponsoring product-wise marketing missions and participation in international trade fairs</p>	ITC	Please refer to B(g) and B(q)
	World Bank	The project listed under a(k) above will include support for product-wise marketing missions, with emphasis on private sector participation.

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question B(v) (cont.) :		
- Strengthening institutions and procedures relating to quality control	ITC	Please refer to comments under B(g)
	World Bank	The project will include assistance to enterprises and to industry associations to meet product standards in major export markets -- to conduct the tests necessary to demonstrate compliance; also assistance to develop a national-level standards accrediting agency (see A(k)).
- Establishing design development centres and fashion institutes	ITC	Please refer to comments under B(g).
	World Bank	Please refer to B(g)(v) and B(g)(vi)
- Lobbying support for rationalizing GSP and GSTP schemes in favour of least-developed countries (e.g. increasing the product coverage, relaxing Rules of Origin criteria, etc.)	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will provide support in GSP/GSTP through studies, advisory services, and training programs. Additional resources needed to complement existing programs.*

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question C(b) :</p> <p><u>Summary of technical assistance needs according to priority</u></p>		
<p>1. Institutional strengthening and human resources development in relevant Ministries and Government agencies, particularly Ministry of Commerce and its affiliated agencies, to effectively handle work relating to compliance with various WTO Agreements. More specifically, this will involve beefing up national capacity for meeting product standards and technical regulations requirements in major export markets of Bangladesh, establishing the administrative mechanism required to conduct investigations and complete other formalities related to the levying of safeguard measures, anti-dumping duties and counter-veiling duties, establish "enquiry points", changing existing national legislation in the area of intellectual property rights to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Agreement on TRIPs, strengthen selected service sub-sectors (e.g. telecommunication, financial services, etc.), stepping up research efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, etc.</p>	IMF	<p>IMF to give assistance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To review and update customs legislation and regulations to align them to WTO rules and standards including aligning the customs valuation system to WTO requirements and, 2) To rationalize the import tariff and coordinate it with the domestic indirect tax system, to assure efficient collection of revenues (1998: commitment in principle)

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :	ITC	<p>Training has been and will continue to be provided by means of dissemination seminars on UR agreements under the ITC Uruguay Round Follow-up Programme.</p> <p>A technical workshop on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures will be organised under the Integrated Country Programme for Strengthening Supply Capacity for Exportable Goods and Services of Bangladesh (ICP).*</p>
	UNCTAD	<p>UNCTAD will provide training and advisory services with a view to responding to the priority needs of selected Government and creating capacities in selected institutions. It will organize training seminars for trainers on trade policy matters.* (ICP, Obj. 2.1)</p> <p>(These activities are planned to be undertaken under the Government's Integrated Country Programme - ICP - For Strengthening the Supply Capacity For Exportable Goods and Services. (1997-2002). This ICP has been developed following an UNCTAD led inter-agency mission involving ITC, UNDP, and ESCAP, which visited Bangladesh in May-June 1997.)</p> <p>UNCTAD will implement the TRAINFORTRADE program.*</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :	World Bank	<p>The World Bank intends that the project currently being negotiated will become operational in 1998. It will provide staff training and outside consultants to augment the capacity of the Commerce Ministry to analyze trade policy issues and of the BTC to analyze tariff issues, to conduct investigations under the safeguard, anti-dumping and countervailing duty provisions of the WTO agreements.</p>
C(b)1 (Continued...)	WTO	<p>1. With respect to strengthening human resources the following will be made by the WTO :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional specialized workshops on specific WTO agreements will be organized for English-speaking Least-Developed countries in Asia and in the Pacific (1998 and 1999). - A three-week trade policy course for English-speaking Least-Developed countries (including Bangladesh) will be held (1998 and 1999). <p>This course will contain general training for enhancing negotiating skills for participation in multilateral trade negotiations.</p> <p>2. With respect to implementation of the WTO Agreements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh for the drafting / alignment of its own legislation to WTO obligations as well as for its notification requirements (1998-2000).

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :		<p>Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh on the subject of Safeguards during the period 1998/2000; this assistance will consist in training national administration staff responsible for the implementation of this Agreement</p> <p>Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh on Anti-Dumping issues during the period 1998/2000; this assistance will comprise: a) assessment of the requesting country needs in the contingent trade remedies area; b) on the basis of the results of this assessment, technical assistance will be provided on: (i) drafting national legislation; (ii) establishing domestic trade remedy system (iii) training national administration staff responsible for the implementation of the trade remedy system</p> <p>Assistance will be provided to Bangladesh during the period 1998/2000 for aligning customs valuation legislation with WTO Agreement.</p> <p>Assistance will be extended to Bangladesh in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement between WIPO and WTO providing for WIPO legal-technical assistance relating to the TRIPS Agreement.</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>Question C(b) (cont.) :</p> <p>2. Development of physical infrastructure</p>	UNCTAD	<p>The Rail-Tracker component of UNCTAD's Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) has already been installed in Bangladesh Railways. It could be extended to link the physical points to other transport modes on the basis of existing software.*</p>
	World Bank	<p>The World Bank will support a study of port modernisation.</p> <p>The World Bank will support a study to identify and quantify needs.</p> <p>The World Bank will support a study on road rehabilitation and maintenance: improving roads, bridges essential for efficiency in the transport of industrial, agricultural, export and import goods.</p> <p>The World Bank will support a study on telecommunications sector reform.</p> <p>All of these studies are intended to develop specific investment programs.</p>
<p>3. Advisory and support services for developing new export products and improving the quality, design, and packaging of existing export products</p>	ITC	<p>Training opportunities will be offered to personnel concerned in the private sector by means of direct training.</p> <p>New products will be identified for product development and adaptation under the ICP.</p>
	World Bank	<p>The programs listed under A(k) above will support private sector expenditures to improve design, packaging, marketing, etc.</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :		The programs listed under A(k) above will support development of non-governmental information systems, e.g., among enterprises, industry associations.
4. Developing a modern trade information network including establishment of a Trade Point	ITC/ UNCTAD	A Trade Point has been established in Dacca. The Trade Point will be made operational to serve the business community and the Government in cooperation with the chambers of commerce. (ICP, Obj. 2.5)
5. Investment promotion with particular emphasis on improvement of trade finance facilities	UNCTAD	UNCTAD will review the Bangladesh investment environment, including policies, laws, incentives, and institutional structures (including EPZs) used to attract foreign investment, taking into account the experience of neighbouring countries and internationally established best practices in investment promotion.*

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :		<p>UNCTAD will prepare an integrated project on investment, entrepreneurship development and technology, with as its main objectives:</p> <p>(a) the enhancement of the legal and institutional environment relating to investment flows. See also B(g)(i)</p> <p>(b) the facilitation of the integration of science, technology and innovation policies with development strategies and</p> <p>(c) enhancing the technological capacity building and strengthening their relevance to the rest of the economy.* (ICP, Obj. 3.4)</p>
	World Bank	A study is under way to determine how serious problems of trade financing are and how to solve them.
6. In-depth analysis of market access problems faced in major export markets and finding ways to overcome these	ITC	Under ICP market demand studies will be carried out, on basis of which export strategies to penetrate target markets will be formulated.
	UNCTAD	<p>The country will benefit from the GSP Programme which aims at increasing GSP utilization with a better understanding of trade laws governing market access conditions in major markets. Information on GSP and other preferential tariffs are available in the TRAINS CD-ROM which is available to Bangladesh.</p> <p>UNCTAD will provide support in GSP/GSTP through studies, advisory services, and training programs.</p> <p>Additional resources needed to complement existing programs.*</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :	World Bank	The programs listed under A(k) above will support private sector expenditures to improve design, packaging, marketing, etc.
7. Strengthening the existing institutional set-up and developing human resources to facilitate transfer, development and acquisition of appropriate technology.	UNCTAD	<p>UNCTAD will prepare an integrated project on investment, entrepreneurship development and technology.</p> <p>(a) the enhancement of the legal and institutional environment relating to investment flows. See also B(g)(i)</p> <p>(b) the facilitation of the integration of science, technology and innovation policies with development strategies and</p> <p>(c) enhancing the technological capacity building and strengthening their relevance to the rest of the economy.* (ICP, Obj. 3.4)</p>
	World Bank	The programs listed under A(k) above will include sub-sector programs to support technology acquisition at the enterprise, industry level.
8. Training for skill development of officials serving in trade promotion organizations in the public and private sectors	ITC	Training opportunities will be offered to both government officials and personnel concerned in the private sector by means of direct training, training of trainers and curricula development.
	UNCTAD	Through the "Training for Trainers" Programme, UNCTAD will increase the management skills of private operators as well as those of officials in trade-related public organizations. (ICP, Obj. 2.4)

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :	World Bank	Projects listed under A(k) above will support development of non-governmental information systems, e.g., among enterprises, industry associations
9. Building up institutional capability in formulation and implementation of trade policy matters	UNCTAD	<p>UNCTAD will provide training and advisory services with a view to responding to the priority needs of selected Government and creating capacities in selected institutions. It will organize training seminars for trainers on trade policy matters.* (ICP, Obj. 2.1)</p> <p>(These activities are planned to be undertaken under the Government's Integrated Country Programme - ICP - For Strengthening the Supply Capacity For Exportable Goods and Services. (1997-2002). This ICP has been developed following an UNCTAD led inter-agency mission involving ITC, UNDP, and ESCAP, which visited Bangladesh in May-June 1997.)</p> <p>UNCTAD will implement the TRAINFORTRADE program.*</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
Question C(b) (cont.) :	World Bank	<p>Projects listed under A(k) will include:</p> <p>In government ministries: support to increase capacity to manage WTO-related policy matters</p> <p>In the Bangladesh Tariff Commission: support to increase capacity to do economic analysis of tariffs and other trade instruments, to conduct safeguard and other WTO-sanctioned trade remedy investigations.</p> <p>In the private sector: support to increase capacity to identify and to analyze business opportunities</p>
10. Sponsoring product-wise marketing missions abroad and participation in international trade fairs	ITC	Under ICP market demand studies will be carried out, on basis of which export strategies to penetrate target markets will be formulated.
	World Bank	<p>The programs listed under A(k) above will support private sector expenditures to improve design, packaging, marketing, etc.</p> <p>The programs listed under A(k) above will support development of non-governmental information systems, e.g., among enterprises, industry associations.</p>

* Funds are requested.

Technical assistance needs identified in the questionnaire	Organization	Response
<p>In response to question C(d) :</p> <p><u>Technical assistance needs in the area of information technology including training of human resources</u></p>		
<p>Bangladesh has limited technological capacity and human resources to make use of the new information/communication technology tools such as CD-ROM, the Internet, etc. Assistance is needed for undertaking extensive training programmes in this area as well as for making trade-related software and infrastructural facilities easily available.</p>	UNCTAD	<p>Assistance will continue to be provided through the TRAINS CD-ROM. Assistance in its use will be provided through advisory missions and workshops.*</p>
	WTO	<p>One computer will be provided by the WTO to the focal point on WTO matters in the Trade Ministry .This includes a link up to Internet (1998).</p> <p>Training on access and use of Internet resources and of CD Roms will be provided to Bangladesh (1998).</p>

* Funds are requested.