



**Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration**

**CURRENT EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS AT THE WTO SECRETARIAT**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. There are currently 14 Trust Funds managed by the WTO Secretariat. Below, is a summary of each Trust Fund with information about its origins and management.

1.2. Table 1 contains the fund expenditures and balances for each Trust Fund as at 31 December 2019.

**Table 1 Trust Fund Balances as at 31 December 2019**

2019 Trust Funds - provisional statement of accounts				
Trust Fund	Expenditure 2019 (CHF 000)	Balance 2019 (CHF 000)	% of All Trust Funds (exp.)	% of All Trust Funds (bal.)
Global Trust Fund	9,187	9,664	52.22%	32.98%
French-Irish Mission Internship Programme	1,122	1,230	6.38%	4.20%
Netherlands Trainee Programme	672	1,185	3.82%	4.04%
China LDCs & Accessions Programme	320	750	1.82%	2.56%
Standards and Trade Development Facility - STDF -	4,728	9,412	26.88%	32.12%
Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility	1,211	5,126	6.88%	17.50%
LDC in the 12 <sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference, Kazakhstan	0	406	0.00%	1.39%
WTO Fisheries LDCs participation	135	34	0.77%	0.12%
LDC Graduation Fund	80	120	0.45%	0.41%
Transferring technologies for the development of Cotton	69	78	0.39%	0.27%
China Development Cooperation Research Fund	1	1,286	0.01%	4.39%
Natural Disasters and Trade*	44	8	0.25%	0.03%
Data Set on Trade in Services*	23	0	0.13%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,592</b>	<b>29,299</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Activities related to these funds were effectively concluded in 2019 and they are no longer active.

**2 GLOBAL TRUST FUND (INCLUDED IN THE BIENNIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PLAN)**

2.1. The Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF) was established in 2001 to finance technical assistance programmes and training activities for developing and least-developed countries as well as economies in transition. Its Terms of Reference (ToR) and a model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were developed by the Secretariat in consultation with Members. The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (CBFA) reviewed these documents in

December 2001 (WT/BFA/56), and they were subsequently approved by the General Council on 19 December 2001 (WT/GC/M/72).

2.2. As originally stated in the ToRs and model MoU, the purpose of the DDAGTF is to finance Technical Assistance (TA) activities under the WTO Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan (TA Plan), alongside the Regular Budget (RB). The TA Plan is traditionally adopted by the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) and its funding by the CBFA. For example, Annex 2 of the TA Plan for 2020-21 (WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1) details how the TA Plan will be financed by the RB, Global Trust Fund (GTF) and other earmarked Trust Funds managed by the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC).

2.3. Another important purpose for creating a core Trust Fund was to consolidate the numerous extra-budgetary funds in a single Trust Fund, to provide a stable financial basis for the delivery of the TA Plan adopted by Members. The activities supported by the GTF are intended to: enhance institutional and human capacity in beneficiary countries; address trade policy issues and concerns; facilitate fuller participation of beneficiaries in the Multilateral Trading System; and encourage effective participation in the negotiations.

2.4. In addition to the GTF, three other funds are included in the Biennial TA Plan prepared and overseen by the ITTC. These are the French Irish Internship Programme, the Netherlands Trainee Programme, and the China LDCs and Accessions Programme.

2.5. In 2010, donors requested the Secretariat to start managing the WTO TA activities based on results. The Result-Based Management (RBM) strategy was approved by the Director-General on 12 December 2012 and implemented as of 1 January 2013. The TA Plan for 2014-15 (WT/COMTD/W/200), adopted by the CTD on 24 October 2013 (WT/COMTD/M/89), was the first one to include a Logical Framework (logframe) structured around four Key Results and presenting by Key Result and by output the key performance indicators to be used to measure results, their baseline, target, source of evidence and assumptions. Since 2015, TA annual reports presented to the CTD follow the logframe structure to assess TA results, Key Result by Key Result, output by output and indicator by indicator (see WT/COMTD/W/216 for 2015, WT/COMTD/W/225 for 2016, WT/COMTD/W/235 for 2017 and WT/COMTD/W/245 for 2018). This approach was validated by the external evaluation of WTO TA performed in 2016 (WT/COMTD/89).

2.6. The WTO launched the TA Management System (TAMS - <https://tamis.wto.org/>) project with the objectives of streamlining the TA workflows, reinforcing their controls and security, and developing a user-friendly platform to provide real-time information on TA to the Secretariat and Members. The internal controls built-in in the TA workflows rely essentially on the segregation of tasks and the individual responsibility of key staff members in different divisions. A TA workflow is initiated by an Electronic Activity Request (eAR). The completion of an eAR requires successive contributions, depending of the TA activity concerned. Any given workflow goes through each officer involved only once and any piece of information in the eAR is validated only once by the most qualified officer (e.g. availability of funds by Budget, quality of the RBM approach by Technical Assistance Monitoring and Evaluation (TAME), etc.). Every step in the workflow is traceable in TAMS and can be subsequently audited. This set-up conforms to best internal control practices.

2.7. The results of TA activities are monitored and assessed by the TAME Section of ITTC. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan to formalise the approach followed since 2009 is currently being finalised and may be presented to the CTD at some point in 2020. The M&E plan relies on a mixture of participants' evaluations; self-evaluations by the trainers delivering TA; onsite evaluations, country assessments, ex-post evaluations and annual assessments performed by TAME; and external evaluations by consultants. The last external evaluation, in 2016, confirmed the robustness of the M&E approach of the WTO (WT/COMTD/89).

2.8. The WTO communicates with Members on the TA coordinated by ITTC through various types of instruments:

- a. the TA Plan adopted by the CTD gathers the TA needs and priorities identified by beneficiaries, articulates the various strategies to be followed during the biennium to respond to these needs and lists the expected TA Key Results and outputs; it includes the TA logframe and an activity matrix;

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- b. the TA annual report presents to the CTD the main evolutions of the year, the details of the activities implemented and an assessment of performance against each of the indicators identified in the TA Plan;
  - c. the TA page of the WTO website includes a list of upcoming face-to-face TA activities with a number of details (dates, venue, programme), a link to the e-Learning website where online courses can be accessed and TA dashboards to analyse past TA by subject, region, language, Key Result, etc.;<sup>1</sup>
  - d. quarterly Extra-budgetary Funds reports present to the CBFA the financial situation of each TF and the expenditure by Key Result of the TA Plan (see WT/BFA/W/506 for the Q3 report of 2019);
  - e. the annual financial report of the WTO analyses, in details, the financial performance under the RB and the various TFs;
  - f. the TA Newsletter circulated electronically by ITTC in the three WTO languages, twice a year, to TA beneficiaries and the WTO TA community at large; and
  - g. for each Ministerial Conference, a leaflet synthesizing some key facts on the WTO TA, its funding and results is circulated to Members and Ministerial Conference delegations.

### **3 THE FRENCH IRISH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (INCLUDED IN THE TA PLAN OVERSEEN BY ITTC)**

3.1. The Mission Internship Programme (MIP) resulted from the decision of Ireland and the United Kingdom in 2001, to provide, through the WTO, additional support to the smaller Geneva-based missions to help them follow WTO-related work. Denmark joined the programme in 2002 and France in 2009; the United Kingdom left it in 2005 and Denmark in 2009. The programme was renamed French-Irish Mission Internship Programme (FIMIP) in 2018 at the request of the donors.

3.2. The programme forms part of the TA Plan, which means that the vetting, governance, reporting and internal controls already described above for the GTF are equally applicable here.

3.3. Under this programme, interns work as delegates in their own country's mission and represent their country on selected WTO committees. They stay in Geneva for ten months and receive a monthly lump sum plus travel expenses. The programme is open to nationals of developing countries, including LDCs and economies in transition with a mission in Geneva. The selection process is conducted by ITTC, Development Division and Human Resources Division, and in close consultation with missions.

3.4. The most recent ex-post evaluation of the programme was performed by TAME in 2019.

### **4 THE NETHERLANDS TRAINEE PROGRAMME (INCLUDED IN THE TA PLAN OVERSEEN BY ITTC)**

4.1. The Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP) was launched in 1998, when the Netherlands decided to finance, through an earmarked voluntary contribution, an internship programme in the Secretariat for junior public officials from selected developing Members and Observers. The programme is open to nationals of LDCs, low-income countries and poor small and vulnerable economies. Particular attention is given to African countries.

4.2. The programme forms part of the TA Plan, which means that the vetting, governance, reporting and internal controls already described above for the GTF are equally applicable here.

4.3. The selection is done by a Committee comprising ITTC, Human Resources Division and Development Division. The recruitment and conditions have been harmonised with the FIMIP. Interns stay in Geneva for ten months and receive a monthly lump sum plus travel expenses.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/teccop\\_e/tct\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/teccop_e/tct_e.htm).

4.4. The most recent ex-post evaluation of the programme was performed by TAME in 2019.

## 5 CHINA LDCS AND ACCESSIONS PROGRAMME (INCLUDED IN THE TA PLAN)

5.1. The "China LDCs and Accessions Programme" (hereinafter "the China Programme") was established in 2011 under an MoU signed between China and the WTO and renewed yearly ever since. The China Programme is aimed at strengthening LDCs' participation in the WTO and at assisting acceding LDCs in joining the WTO. The China LDCs and Accessions programme is a fully earmarked TF structured around five pillars:

1. WTO Accessions Internship Programme;
2. Annual WTO Accession Round Table, generally called China Round Table;
3. LDC participation in WTO or WTO-related meetings;
4. South-South Dialogue on LDCs and development; and
5. LDC TPR follow-up workshops.

5.2. The Accessions Internship Programme is managed by the Accessions division, in collaboration with the Human Resources Division; the China Round Table is managed by Accessions division; the South-South dialogue is managed by the Development division; and the LDC participation in meetings and TPR follow-ups are administered by ITTC.

5.3. An on-site evaluation of the 7<sup>th</sup> China Round Table held in Kazakhstan in September 2018 and an ex-post evaluation of the Accessions Internship Programme in 2019 were performed by TAME.

## 6 STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (STDF)

6.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership and Trust Fund established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the WTO. The STDF supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets.

6.2. Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in its work.<sup>2</sup> The STDF is managed by the WTO.

6.3. The STDF launched a new strategy (2020-2024) on 30 January 2020 that creates a roadmap for taking the STDF's work forward.

6.4. The STDF grew out of a Joint Statement issued by the Directors-General of FAO, OIE, WHO, World Bank and WTO at the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001.<sup>3</sup> In September 2004, the STDF Policy Committee (i.e. STDF founding partners - DDG level) formally established the STDF trust fund through the adoption of a Business Plan, including fiduciary responsibilities stipulating:

*"The WTO hereby formally establishes a Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") under the financial regulations and rules of the WTO for the receipt and administration of funds and for mobilizing resources needed to enhance the programme activities of the Standard and Trade Development Facility in the area of SPS (hereinafter referred to as "the STDF")."*

*"The WTO will serve as the executing institution to administer the STDF and as the Administrator of the Fund. The Fund shall provide a central point for the deposit of contributions to the STDF. Financial resources pledged to the Fund will be managed by the WTO as the Administrator of the Fund. All WTO standard rules, regulations and*

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<sup>2</sup> Further information on the STDF and its activities, background documents, etc. is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/>).

<sup>3</sup> Document WT/MIN(01)/ST/97.

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*procedures will be applied to management reporting and financial management and accounting related to the Fund."*

6.5. The Business Plan also stipulated that the STDF Secretariat be located at the WTO, which appoints the Secretary from its staff to head the Secretariat and appoints or contracts other staff for the Secretariat as necessary, funded by the budget of the Facility. The Secretariat is bound by the legal and fiduciary rules of the WTO and trust funds that support the Facility's activities.

6.6. The STDF works with implementing partner organizations and consultants to implement project and project preparation grants (PPGs). On average, approximately 68% of STDF's annual resources are disbursed this way. In terms of overhead fees (13%), approximately 50% is shared with implementing partner organizations, while the other 50% is retained by the WTO.

6.7. The governance structure of the STDF is set out in the STDF Operational Rules (OR).<sup>4</sup> This includes a Policy Committee, which decides on strategic direction (see para. 7 of the OR), a Working Group that prepares and oversees the implementation of annual work plans and budgets (see para. 10 of the OR), and a Secretariat (housed in the Agriculture and Commodities Division) responsible for actual implementation of the work plan (see para. 16 of the OR).

6.8. The STDF Secretariat reports to members on the implementation of STDF's work plan at each Working Group meeting, including all projects and PPGs under implementation. The STDF Secretariat also prepares STDF's Annual Report, issued in May/June each year, which reports on activities implemented, highlights results, and identifies lessons and opportunities. The report is discussed in, and approved by, the Working Group. All Annual Reports are available on the STDF website.<sup>5</sup>

## **7 TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY (TFAF)**

7.1. The purpose of the TFAF is to help developing countries and LDCs to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The objective is to assist developing countries and LDCs to find the support they need to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

7.2. As presented to the General Council (WT/GC/M/152) on 25 July 2014 the WTO TFAF was a response to concerns which the ACP, LDC and African Group Coordinators had raised about LDCs and developing Members being able to access the necessary support to implement the Agreement, under section 2 of the TFA. It was created to answer those concerns and ensure that those Members will receive the support they need in order to reap the full benefits of the TFA.

7.3. One of the roles of the Facility is to enhance coordination and reduce duplication amongst partner organizations working to support the implementation of the TFA – the so-called Annex D+ Organizations. In regional and national workshops, external expertise is often sought in the form of speakers from Annex D partners when their implementation expertise strengthens the program. TFAF funds the travel and accommodation costs of such speakers when their funds do not otherwise allow.

7.4. As set out in the Operational Guidelines, "The Facility is operated, managed, and monitored by the WTO Secretariat." These Guidelines were drafted in cooperation with WTO donor Members (the broader community of developed countries) and were presented to developing countries for input/comment. Periodically, meetings are held with the trust fund donors to provide an update on recent and planned activities and receive their input.

7.5. Expenditure in terms of organizing workshops and participating in external events is governed by the WTO rules, as agreed by the donors to the trust fund. The anticipated number of events is reported in the annual work plan which is available to all online. The specific cost associated with each event, is reported in the annual report which is also available to all online.

7.6. As agreed in the operational rules for the TFAF grant program, a selection committee, comprised of two trust fund donors, two developing country Members, an international organization (Annex D), and a WTO official will judge the applications for project implementation grants. (This

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<sup>4</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/key-documents>.

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-annual-reports/>.

program is a relatively new program and no project implementation grant requests have been received yet.)

7.7. The TFAF reports regularly to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee on its activities. It invites Members to provide input and announces the availability of its annual work plans and annual reports, which are published on the TFAF website. All Members can pose questions or raise any issues following the report.

7.8. An annual work plan published in November outlines the available and anticipated activities for the year ahead and is developed based on the requirements of the TFA, information provided at TF Committee meetings, and on needs expressed by developing and LDC Members. Operational decisions on the allocation of funding and staff time is therefore made according to need and within the agreed parameters of the Facilities activities in the annual work plans.

7.9. As agreed in its Operational Rules, TFAF follows the logical framework (log frame) approach to project management. All activity requests are judged against their contribution to the log frame. TFAF maintains an activity log which follows the delivery of each activity and tracks outputs, and the evidence for progress in terms of participant feedback, notifications submitted, back to office reports, etc. Each activity is then summarized in the annual report, along with the activity tracker which are all available on the TFAF website.

7.10. The operational rules also require an external audit 5 years after the TFA enters into force.

## **8 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE – PARTICIPATION OF LDCS**

8.1. Since the first WTO Ministerial Conference held in Singapore in 1996, the WTO has facilitated the participation of LDCs in Ministerial Conferences, using voluntary contributions. Costs related to travel, accommodation and per diem of LDC delegations, comprised of one Minister and two high level Officials, are covered.

8.2. The WTO Secretariat provides the logistical support for organizing travel based on nominations from LDC delegations and eligibility for support based on a Member's status under administrative measures. The status of the fund is reported on regularly to the CBFA leading up to each Ministerial and financial reporting is included in routine quarterly trust fund and annual year end reporting.

8.3. At the end of a given Ministerial Conference, the remaining balances in favour of the various donors are usually carried forward and added to the new contributions to be utilized for the same purpose in the subsequent Ministerial Conference, unless the donor requests a reimbursement.

## **9 LDC FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS TRUST FUND**

9.1. The LDC Fisheries Negotiations Trust Fund has the sole purpose of financing the travel costs of fisheries officials from LDC capitals to take part in Negotiating Group on Rules fisheries subsidies meeting clusters. This fund was established in response to requests from LDCs in open Rules Negotiating Group and HODs/TNC/GC meetings for financial support for this purpose.

9.2. Norway, Australia, New Zealand and Germany agreed to provide funding, and they requested the Secretariat to administer the payments. The trust fund structure was identified as the practical way to do this. The trust fund was established in accordance with the Secretariat's new guidelines for notification of voluntary contributions, such that transparency was provided to the Members from the outset.

9.3. In establishing parameters of the fund, it was agreed that a maximum of 11 persons would be funded for each cluster meeting, that it is for the LDC Group to determine which of its member countries will be funded to participate in any given cluster; and that it is for each individual country to name its representative. The nomination form contains professional and language proficiency requirements that need to be confirmed and the Rules Division reviews the forms to be sure that they contain the requisite information to be eligible. Thus, the Members themselves nominate their capital-based negotiators for these meetings. The Secretariat makes no selection but provides the logistical support for organizing travel arrangements for nominated individuals.

## 10 LDC GRADUATION TRUST FUND

10.1. In response to a request from the WTO LDC Group, made in the Sub-Committee on LDCs on 30 October 2018 (WT/COMTD/LDC/M/84) and reiterated in writing through a Note Verbale on 21 November 2018, the WTO Secretariat has, in collaboration with the EIF Executive Secretariat, developed a project on LDC Graduation aimed at ensuring a smooth graduation process for the 12 LDCs in the graduation pipeline.

10.2. The project, along with its objectives, envisaged activities, and estimated budget, was considered by the CBFA on 13 November 2018 (WT/BFA/W/466) and also approved by the EIF Board on 16 January 2019. The Trust Fund was established on 19 March 2019 to carry out research and analytical work on the trade-related implications of graduation as well as to organize national and regional activities to enhance capacity of graduating LDCs to better prepare them for graduation from LDC status. The principal project outputs and activities are the following:

- a. Analytical reports on LDC Graduation and the WTO (cross-cutting analysis; country-specific market access analysis; and country reports);
- b. National and regional capacity-building workshops; and
- c. Dissemination events, including at the WTO.

10.3. The project is being implemented by the Development Division. Project activities are being undertaken in line with the approved project proposal. Briefings on progress in the implementation of the project are being provided to Members in the Sub-Committee on LDCs, to the LDC Group, to the EIF Board, and UNOPS – the Trust Fund Manager. WTO keeps other IGOs working on graduation informed about the project activities through the UN inter-agency task force on LDC graduation.

## 11 COTTON BY-PRODUCTS PROJECT

11.1. The project on "Technology Transfer for the Development of Cotton by-Products in 8 African LDCs", started on 7 July 2019 with a 204,000 USD grant from the EIF and the establishment of the relevant "WTO Cotton by-products fund". The project emanated from the joint-initiative on cotton by-products, which was conceived and endorsed by WTO Members in November 2018 (TN/AG/SCC/W/30 - WT/CFMC/58). The project is expected to be concluded on 30 June 2020.

11.2. The trust fund was notified to the CBFA on 16 July 2019 (WT/BFA/INF/4), in line with the process set out in the "Guidelines for the receipt and notification of voluntary fund contributions".

11.3. This trust fund contributes to the achievement of WTO mandates on cotton development assistance, as recently reflected in the following documents:

- Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on Cotton (2015): *"We underline the importance of effective assistance to support the cotton sector in developing country Members, especially the LDCs amongst them. We recognize that the Aid-for-Trade (Aft) initiative, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), should play a key role in strengthening the cotton sector in LDCs. The linkage between this initiative and the development aspects of cotton should be reinforced to help formulate, on the basis of priorities identified by LDC cotton producers, multidimensional and integrated programmes and projects at the regional and sub-regional level, to be submitted to development partners."* (para. 11).
- Bali Ministerial Declaration on Cotton (2013): *[W]e invite the LDCs to continue identifying their needs linked to cotton or related sectors [...]. We urge the development partners to accord special focus to such needs within the existing aid-for-trade mechanisms/channels such as the EIF and the technical assistance and capacity building work of relevant international institutions."* (para. 10).

11.4. This trust fund is specifically linked to the "Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on Collaborative Arrangements in the EIF Programme Phase 2", effective as of 12 March 2019. Pursuant to this MoU, the WTO has been working in close collaboration with the ITC, UNCTAD and IFAD.

11.5. Trust fund activities are regularly discussed at the biannual meetings of the Director-General's Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton (DGCFMC), under the standing agenda item 6 on "cotton projects", which was introduced in 2017, at the request of Members, for the specific purpose of, inter alia, reviewing the operation and effectiveness of individual cotton projects (TN/AG/SCC/W/28 – WT/CFMC/56). The official reports of the meetings of the DGCFMC contain the decisions made by this Committee. They can be found in the TN/AG/SCC/W/\* - WT/CFMC/\* documentation series.

## **12 THE CHINA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION RESEARCH FUND**

12.1. The Government of the People's Republic of China and the WTO set up this Trust Fund to strengthen collaboration in research and research-related technical assistance and capacity building for trade. The funding for these projects comes from the South South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) and is pledged to provide up to USD 8 million over several years. The funds only arrive at the WTO when a project is identified. Each project then leads to the establishment of a trust fund to help ensure clear accounting and reporting. Individual projects are expected to be in the USD 250k-USD 500k range. The overarching agreement is coordinated by the Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD).

12.2. Two projects have been approved by the Director-General so far. An Investment Facilitation for Development project, and more recently the Asycuda/TiVA project.

12.3. As the structure of this voluntary contribution agreement is somewhat different from that of other initiatives, the exact procedures for how to manage projects has been a learning process and evolved over these first two projects. Additionally, the projects are not intended to be traditional WTO technical assistance. They are envisioned to have a strong development and research orientation, aiming to fill gaps in capacity and/or capabilities for developing country members and in areas where the secretariat could provide more useful research, databases, and insights that facilitate further participation in the global trading system for developing country members.

12.4. The selection process for projects is now overseen by an informal governing body that evaluates project proposals from both a technical needs and a WTO objectives perspective. The informal body is organized by Director of ERSD and includes a representative from Administration and General Services Division (AGSD) and the Director-General's Office (DGO). All selected projects are also reviewed by the DGO, and no project is approved for submission for technical review to the SSCAF office in Beijing until the Director-General has approved the project. This is a multi-layered approach to project evaluation and approval.

12.5. For the SSCAF projects the Director of the division implementing an approved project is responsible for project decisions, which should be consistent with the approved project plan. The Director of ERSD provides overall oversight of project implementations against their programmatic and financial plans. A representative of AGSD reviews project financial commitments and implementation.

12.6. Three additional projects are currently under internal consideration.

## **13 NATURAL DISASTER AND TRADE TRUST FUND**

13.1. The Natural Disasters and Trade Fund was established in 2018 to undertake research on the trade effects of natural disasters and understand the scope to take measures for response, recovery and resilience under WTO Agreements. The project was submitted to the CBFA for consent in April 2018 (WT/BFA/W/445). The research work was funded with a grant from the Mission of Australia to the WTO. Project research activities were undertaken between April 2018 and completed in December 2019. The principal project outputs were as follows:

- Four Symposia on natural disasters and trade held at WTO;
- Report on trade impacts of natural disasters, including reports on six disaster-affected Members; and
- Mapping of natural disasters and WTO agreements.

13.2. The project was managed by the Development Division and implemented internally without implementing partners. Project activities were undertaken based on a project plan agreed with the donor.

#### **14 DATA SET ON TRADE IN SERVICES BY SECTOR AND MODE OF SUPPLY (CLOSED)**

14.1. The Trust Fund was created in October 2016 by an agreement between the EU Commission and the WTO to finance a project aimed at analysing and providing data on goods, services and intellectual property by mode of supply, to trade analysts. The project was submitted to the CBFA for consent in September 2016 (WT/BFA/W/401). It also contributed to the improvement of the Global Trade Analyst Project (GTAP) database used for trade analysis, thus enhancing transparency and the quality of trade analysis in the services domain.

14.2. The activity was managed and implemented by the WTO/ERSD in co-operation with Trade in Services and Investment Division (TISID). Results were reviewed by academics, data compilers and various international organizations. Two expert meetings were organized and other international organizations, data compilers and academics participated on their own accounts. Results were released on the WTO website as a WTO-established product. Intermediate and final results were presented at various academic meetings and to the Members in the Committee on Trade in Services.

14.3. The work was completed in 2019.

#### **15 ADMINISTRATIVE EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS WITHOUT PROGRAMMATIC ASPECTS**

15.1. The following three extra-budgetary funds do not have programmatic or operational elements and exist for administrative reasons. They are reported on annually in the WTO Financial Report but are not included in the quarterly reporting on programmatic trust funds.

15.2. The Programme Support Fund (PSF) is a mechanism for managing programme support costs which are typically charged at a rate of 13% of the direct costs incurred by Trust Funds administered by the WTO. The WTO may allocate a portion of the Programme Support Costs to Trust Funds that it manages with implementing partners. Overhead fees are collected and calculated as of 31 December of each year. 10% of the expenses in the PSF are statutorily credited back to the WTO regular budget to cover some overheads for services used in the delivery of activities financed from the extra-budgetary funds.

15.3. The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Executive Secretariat was established in 2008 and is housed at the WTO. Funding for the EIF is channelled through two sources: the multilateral EIF Trust Fund managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and bilateral/regional donor support made directly to the beneficiary countries. The EIF Trust Fund makes an annual allocation to the WTO to cover the operating expenditures of the EIF Executive Secretariat.

15.4. Independent Entity (IE) is a mechanism for settling disputes between exporters and pre-shipment inspection companies/agencies. It is constituted by the WTO, International Chamber of Commerce and the International Federation of Inspection Agencies. The fund is established under Article 4 of the Agreement on Pre-shipment Inspection. This fund has never been drawn-down since its establishment in 1995 and is a subsidiary of the Committee on Trade in Goods.

#### **16 NOTIFICATION OF NEW TRUST FUNDS**

16.1. When the possibility of a new trust fund arises, information on the proposed fund is shared with the CBFA consistent with Financial Regulation 19 and the process implemented by the Director-General in the "Guidelines for the Receipt and Notification of Voluntary Fund Contributions" (WT/INF/219).

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