

Recommendation

- (a) In 2006, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the TBT Agreement's provisions on technical assistance, the Committee agreed:⁸⁶
- (i) to exchange experiences in respect of the delivery and receipt of technical assistance with a view to identifying good practices in this regard.

Documents

- (a) Notifications Specific Technical Assistance Needs and Responses are contained in the following document series: G/TBT/TA-[number]/[Member].

Action on Information Exchange

- (a) On 19-20 July 2000, the Committee held a Workshop on Technical Assistance and Differential Treatment in the context of the TBT Agreement.⁸⁷
- (b) On 18 March 2003, with the objectives of further developing the technical cooperation programme and providing an opportunity for further information exchange on technical assistance, on both the demand and supply sides, a special workshop on TBT-related technical assistance was held.⁸⁸

VI. SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

12. Article 12 of the TBT Agreement deals with Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Country Members. Members have, on various occasions, exchanged information and views on the operation and implementation of this Article, including in the context of other items on the TBT Committee's agenda.

A. GENERAL

Recommendations

- (a) In 1997, with a view to operationalize and implement the provisions of Article 12, the Committee agreed to the following:⁸⁹
- (i) the Committee will consider including the following matters in its future programme of work, which could be taken up during the next three years and reviewed during the Second Triennial Review of the Agreement:
- The use of measures to engender capacity building in developing country Members, including the consideration of measures relevant to transfer of technology to these countries, for the purpose of preparation and adoption of technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures, taking into account their special development, financial and trade needs;
 - the preparation of a study by the Secretariat to establish the state of knowledge concerning the technical barriers to the market access of developing country suppliers, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), as a result of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures;

⁸⁶ G/TBT/19, 14 November 2006, para. 78(c).

⁸⁷ G/TBT/9, 13 November 2000, Annex 1.

⁸⁸ A Summary Report by the Chairperson is contained in Annex A of G/TBT/M/29, 19 May 2003.

⁸⁹ G/TBT/5, 19 November 1997, para. 33.

- inviting representatives of relevant international standardizing bodies and international systems for conformity assessment procedures to make written and oral presentations to the Committee with a view to assessing whether and how account is taken of the special problems of developing countries in such bodies and systems. The Secretariat will circulate a compendium of the written contributions by the relevant organisations; and
- the encouragement of the organization of international meetings relevant to the provisions of the Agreement in the territories of developing country Members to give greater representative participation by such Members to the deliberations and recommendations of such international meetings, and the electronic dissemination of information.

B. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Recommendations

- (a) In 1997, with a view to operationalize and implement the provisions of Article 12, the Committee agreed to the following:⁹⁰
 - (i) Members are invited, on a voluntary basis, to exchange information on the implementation of Article 12, including information related to Articles 12.2, 12.3, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.9. Members are invited, on a voluntary basis, to exchange information on any specific problems they face in relation to the operation of Article 12; and
- (b) In 2006, in order to have a more focused exchange of information, the Committee agreed:⁹¹
 - (i) to encourage Members to inform the Committee of special and differential treatment provided to developing country Members, including information on how they have taken into account special and differential treatment provisions in the preparation of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures; and
 - (ii) to encourage developing country Members to undertake their own assessments of the utility and benefits of such special and differential treatment.

Action on Information Exchange

- (a) On 19-20 July 2000, the Committee held a Workshop on Technical Assistance and Differential Treatment in the context of the TBT Agreement.⁹²

⁹⁰ G/TBT/5, 19 November 1997, para. 33.

⁹¹ G/TBT/19, 14 November 2006, para. 82.

⁹² G/TBT/9, 13 November 2000, Annex 1.