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Negotiating Group on Trade-Related Aspects
of Intellectual Property Rights, including
Trade in Counterfeit Goods

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

## Communication from UNCTAD

## Addendum

At its meeting of 11, 12 and 14 December 1989, the Group agreed to invite other relevant international organisations to provide information on their technical assistance programmes regarding matters under discussion in the Group (MTN.GNG/NG11/17, paragraph 24).

The following communication, dated 25 January 1990, has been received in response from UNCTAD.

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1. The Final Act of UNCTAD VII stipulates:

"The Secretary-General of UNCTAD is requested to provide technical assistance to developing countries, on request, in connection with the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations so as to facilitate their effective participation in these negotiations. UNCTAD should render technical support which might be required in the negotiations. In doing so, it should consult with other relevant international organizations if necessary. UNDP is invited to consider favourably the requests for the provision of adequate financial resources to UNCTAD and to individual countries for this purpose".

2. In pursuance of this mandate, UNCTAD has implemented a technical assistance programme which consists of three regional projects, one each for the African, the Latin-American and Carribbean and the Asia-Pacific regions and a fourth, an Interregional project. These four projects, financed by the UNDP and executed by UNCTAD, are designed to be mutually supportive even though the three regional projects are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of developing countries in the respective regions. This technical assistance is provided to developing countries, on request, and covers all subjects being negotiated in the Urugay Round. Given the far-reaching implications of the work of the Negotiating Group on TRIPS and the interest and keenness of developing countries, considerable resource and effort has been deployed for providing technical assistance on

TRIPS. Apart from specialized studies on TRIPS several of the many seminars at the national level have focussed either primarily on TRIPS or on TRIPS and other related subjects such as the one held in Delphi in April 1989. The attached descriptive brochure, which is to be published shortly as an information booklet, sets out in some detail the nature and extent of technical assistance provided thus far.* It is proposed to continue this activity during 1990, under each of the four projects, with an emphasis on generating permanent negotiating capacity in capitals.

3. Although this technical activity is provided upon request and is intended solely for the beneficiaries, either

individually or collectively, some of the studies and papers produced by this Technical Assistance Programme have been published, at the specific request of developing countries, in order to ensure wider dissemination.

4. In regard to technical assistance "relevant to matters under negotiation in the group", attention is drawn, in the context of pargraphs 4 to 7 of the April TNC decision on TRIPS, to the on-going work in UNCTAD on restrictive business practices and technology especially since consideration is to be given to "concerns raised by participants related to the underlying public policy objectives of their national systems for the protection of intellectual property, including developmental and technological objectives".

5. With respect to restrictive business practices, as called for in paragraphs 6 and 7 of section F of the set of principles and rules for the control of RBPs, UNCTAD provides technical assistance through advisory missions and training programmes on RBPs for developing countries.

6. In the field of transfer and development of technology, UNCTAD's technical co-operation activies are carried out through the Technology Programme's Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology (ASTT). Recent activities of the ASTT are documented in the attached documents, respectively, "Review of the Technical Assistance Activities of UNCTAD" (TD/B/WP/68), Report of the Committee on Transfer of Technology on its seventh session (TD/B/1203) and Activities of the Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology (TD/B/C.6/Add.1).* The objective of this service is to assist the developing countries in strengthening their national technological and innovative capacities, including their ability to acquire, absorb and generate techology, to contribute in identifying relevant policy elements and measures for revitalizing technology flows to developing countries in support of development, including diversified sources of supply such as small and medium-sized enterprises, and to assist in improving skill formation and utilzation in developing countries. In

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*Available in the secretariat (office 3006/extension 5001) for consultation by interested participants.

this connection, the ASTT organizes or provides substantive inputs to seminars, workshops, training exchange programmes, with the objective of giving rise to more informed awareness of technology-related issues, including their institutional and legal aspects, as well as possible policy approaches or options for addressing them. The features of technical co-operation include the provision of expertise and technical support for analyzing technology transfer and development policy issues and options at specific country or sectoral levels including their impact on trade and development. Assistance is also given in the formulation of technology policies and measures and in the establishment or strengthening of institutional arrangements for the transfer and development of technology, paying attention to innovation, the commercialization of R and D results and the role of research and development institutes.

7. The draft International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology, under negotiation under the auspices of UNCTAD, requires the international institutional machinery for the Code (i.e. UNCTAD) to organize symposia, workshops and similar meetings concerning the application of the provisions of the Code (paragraph 8.2.1).