



**Reports on
UNDP/ITC/AIDMO Project
RAB/96/001**

Follow-up to the Uruguay Round-Support to Arab enterprises in the fields of
quality and information-related aspects of the TBT and SPS Agreements

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**Reports on
UNDP/ITC/AIDMO Project
RAB/96/001**

- 1- Interim report on the implementation of the
UNDP/ITC/AIDMO project RAB/96/001
by Mr. Enrique Sierra, Project coordinator.

- 2- General Report on A mission by Mr. Pedro Vilaseca
ITC Consultant on Standardization and Q.A aspects on TBT.
11Sep to 11 Nov.98 Doc.N°.ITC/DTSS/99/388

- 3- Country Reports on a mission to Arab Countries
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8. Jordan 4-8/11/98	Doc.N°.ITC/DTSS/99/386



CENTRO DE COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL
UNCTAD/OMC

**AIDMO'S 13th MEETING OF THE HIGH CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE ON STANDARDIZATION (HCCS)
TANGER, MOROCCO, 17-18 MAY 1999**

**INTERIM REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNDP/ITC/AIDMO Project RAB/96/001 "Follow-up to the Uruguay Round - Support to
Arab enterprises in the fields of quality and information-related aspects of the TBT and
SPS Agreements"**

Presented by Mr. Enrique Sierra,
Senior Adviser on Export Quality Management,
Project Coordinator,
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC),
Geneva, Switzerland

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Mr. J. Denis Belisle, Executive Director of the ITC, I am pleased to greet Mr. Al Dafer, Director General of AIDMO and his colleagues of the Secretariat as well as all participants from the AIDMO member countries to this High Consultative Committee on Standardization (HCCS) Meeting and invited authorities and wish you all a successful Meeting. I would also like to thank Mr. Al Dafer and AIDMO for having invited ITC to this Meeting in order to present an interim report on the development of this project.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is very pleased to be the implementing agency of the Project RAB/96/001 "Follow-up to the Uruguay Round - Support to Arab enterprises in the fields of quality and information-related aspects of the TBT and SPS Agreements" of which the executing agency is the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the funding agency is the UNDP and the regional counterpart agency is the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO). The project started in December 1997 and its completion date is December 1999.

The overall objective of this project is to facilitate the integration of participating Arab countries in international trade and to take advantage of the opportunities and mechanisms envisaged in the Uruguay Round Agreements on TBT and SPS.

supported by the Host organization (INNORPI).

3.- Arab sub-regional seminar for GCC countries on the WTO's TBT and SPS Agreements and their implications for the business community.

This seminar was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 12 to 15 December 1998 and was hosted and sponsored jointly by the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO) and the Gulf Standards and Metrology Organization (GSMO). The participants (120) came from the Host country, Saudi Arabia and from Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar. The resource persons came from ISO, ITC, AIDMO, FAO/WHO CODEX Alimentarius, the Host organizations, SASO/GSMO, and from the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Finance. The project supported the cost of travel of the international and foreign resource persons; the Host organization (SASO/GSMO) supported all the logistic costs and provided its excellent facilities and technical staff/resource persons; participants from outside Saudi Arabia attended at their own cost.

In total, the three seminars mentioned above were attended by about 220 participants from 17 different Arab countries.

Consultancy mission on TBT:

The consultancy mission on the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade was organized in two phases: The first one took place from 11 September 1998 to 11 November 1998 covering the following eight countries: Morocco (including briefing at AIDMO Headquarters), Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen. The second phase covers the period from 17 April 1999 to 20 May 1999 and includes the following eight countries: Sudan, Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Algeria and Morocco. The consultant, Mr. Pedro Vilaseca, is here with us today and will be pleased to present a summary of his findings and recommendations to the participants in this Meeting of the AIDMO's HCCS.

Consultancy mission on Enquiry Points:

The consultancy mission on TBT/SPS related information services or Enquiry Points started with a preparatory briefing visit to AIDMO Headquarters from 4 to 13 December 1998 followed by visits to Cairo, Algiers and Tunisia (from 5 to 20 March 1999) and to Riyadh, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Tanger and Casablanca (from 23 April to 25 May 1999). The consultant, Mr. Eduardo Pizarro, is also present at this meeting and he will be pleased to inform you on his findings and recommendations as well as to make an audio-visual demonstration, through Internet of the electronic information service on standards and technical regulations that he is proposing for the Arab countries. Further visits will be made to other countries, from 13 to 30 June 1999, as will be informed later.

Provision of IT equipment:

The project has provided information technology equipment to the standards information centres of AIDMO, Jordan (JISM) and Algeria (IANOR). This equipment has significantly improved the capability of the recipient institutions to provide information services to their users.

Translation of AIDMO Standards

The translation of Arab Standards into French and English will be undertaken by AIDMO, funded by the project. The purpose is to facilitate the completion of the electronic bibliographic data base of AIDMO standards, according to international recommendations (ISONET).

Provision of documentation:

The list of documentation to be provided through the project, including subscription to periodicals and purchase of electronic data bases on standards and technical regulations needs to be completed as soon as possible. No documentation has been provided so far.

National consultants:

The project envisaged National Consultants to assist in the development of the information services in Jordan, Algeria and Morocco, according to the requirements in the TBT and SPS Agreements. However, this project element has not been implemented so far. Consequently, efforts should be made to identify the candidates for these posts as soon as possible. Otherwise, proposals should be made in order find to alternative arrangements in line with project objectives.

The above presentation has been made in order to convey to the distinguished participants in this HCCS Meeting a global idea of the present situation of this project with an indication of what has been accomplished and what is still missing. The purpose is to expedite project implementation so that the totality of project activities and objectives are materialized before the envisaged duration of the project comes to an end by December 1999.

I hope that this presentation has been useful and thank you all for your kind attention. Finally, I would be pleased to answer to your questions and to note your suggestions.

Geneva, 12 May 1999

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE



UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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**“FOLLOW-UP TO THE URUGUAY ROUND -
SUPPORT TO ARAB ENTERPRISES IN THE FIELDS OF QUALITY AND
INFORMATION-RELATED ASPECTS OF THE AGREEMENTS ON
TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (TBT) AND ON THE APPLICATION OF
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (SPS)”**

Report on a mission by
Mr. Pedro Vilaseca
Consultant on Standardisation and Quality Assurance Aspects
in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

(11 September to 11 November 1998)

(Project No. RAB/96/001)

The mission described in this report was undertaken on behalf of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC). It was financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of a technical cooperation project executed by the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This report has not been formally edited by the
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO.

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A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the mission carried out by the consultant from 11 September to 11 November 1998, under project RAB/96/001: "Follow up of the Uruguay Round. Support to Arab Enterprises in the fields of Quality and Information-Related aspects of the Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The consultant visited AIDMO's Headquarters (Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation), as well as Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen.

AIDMO, through its contacts with

The Ministries of Trade and Industry, the institutions concerned with standards and the UNDP offices in each of the countries visited provided assistance to the consultant in the planning and execution of the mission.

B. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The consultant focused his activities on obtaining first hand knowledge of the structure and organisation that each country has in place in order to tackle the activities defined in the TBT Agreement. Special importance has been given to the way in which each country is facing or is planning to face the provisions concerning notifications and the existence of inquiry points and the private sector's degree of information and participation in the Agreement's activities, particularly in the management of notifications received from other Members of the Agreement

The consultant has also made an assessment of the following: the infrastructure that each country has in place in the fields of standards and technical regulations, the documentation, standardisation and quality assurance activities, the preparation and enforcement of technical regulations, inspection, testing, certification and accreditation as well as the degree of participation in regional and international activities.

The consultant has given particular attention to the accomplishment of the following tasks specified in the job description of the mission (Annex 1), namely:

1. To advise representatives of the business sector and trade support institutions (including AIDMO) on ways and means to effectively take advantage of the provisions in the TBT Agreement particularly with respect to access to information, identification of unjustified technical barriers to trade, participation in international standardisation activities, access to TBT related services, establishment or improvement of TBT related services, coo-operation between the business community and the trade authorities, access to WTO TBT related mechanisms, etc.
2. To assist in the preparation and presentation of seminars or other training events related to the project.
3. To prepare a report with main findings and recommendations addressed to the business community, trade support institutions and trade ministries in each of the countries visited.
4. To present this report to the concerned parties in each of the countries visited through a half day seminar to be organised by the national standardisation body or, in its absence, any other focal point designated by AIDMO.
5. To submit copies of this report to AIDMO and ITC in paper and diskette (IBM compatible).

The list of institutions and persons visited during the mission appears on Annex 2.

C. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The reader is encouraged to read the specific findings and conclusions for each country appearing in the country reports.

1. Implementation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

(a) Structure and organisation

In all countries, the Ministry of Trade (or its equivalent) is responsible for the relationships with the WTO.

The establishment of National Committees to deal with the WTO Agreements or the TBT Agreement, has proven to be an excellent way for the countries to co-ordinate the participation of all Ministries and governmental agencies.

The responsibilities of members of the National Committees are not, however, clearly defined, especially regarding their own Ministries in matters concerning the raising of awareness and staff training and, mainly, in ensuring that all new technical regulations will be issued in accordance with the TBT Agreement.

Participation on the TBT Agreement is showing the need for the various countries to update and modernise their technical regulations.

(b) Responsibilities on Notifications Procedures and Enquiry Point

Some countries are using the same institutions to carry out both functions. There is, however, a wide misunderstanding of the responsibilities of the inquiry point, as it is believed that such a body must also carry out the activities established in the TBT Agreement as a "central government authority" responsible for the implementation of the provisions concerning notification procedures.

The national standards bodies have been designated as inquiry points in most of the countries.

(c) Availability of International and Foreign Standards and Technical Regulations

The availability of ISO and Codex Alimentarius international standards is limited in all countries. The IEC (International Electro-technical Commission) and OIML (Organization Internationale de Metrologie Légale) standards are only available in some countries.

The knowledge and use of standards prepared by other international standardisation bodies is very limited or null (see Annex 3).

Regional and foreign standards from European countries are partially available. U.S. technical regulations and standards are practically non-existing.

(d) Use of International Standards under the TBT Agreement provisions

All countries have established that the elaboration of standards and technical regulations should be based on international standards. However, the lack of documents and/or information in the institutions responsible for the elaboration and enforcement of technical regulations in several countries hamper the implementation of this principle.

(e) Special needs of the Arab countries on technical regulations

There are two fields in which Arab countries show specific conditions that could result in a deviation from international standards. The first one refers to the religious and cultural values that must be taken into consideration in some technical regulations. The second one refers mainly to the climatic conditions that are not necessarily considered in international standards.

(f) Notification's Treatment

The reception and treatment of notifications is considered the most cumbersome and difficult task to be dealt with in all countries. The principal problems identified in this connection are:

- the language in which they are written is unknown to them;
- the text of the notification is difficult to understand;
- the time allocated to answer notifications is insufficient;
- the notifications are based on cultural traits not understood by the recipient.

The treatment of notifications, particularly their screening to find out whether they affect the country's international trade, must be done by a team, in which both the public and private sectors participate.

A procedure ensuring that all concerned parties in the country will receive notifications has not yet been established.

It is not possible to ensure the reception of notifications by concerned companies and that they are able to issue comments on them without a strong co-operation of institutions representing the private sector.

There is no clear procedure to ensure that all new projects for technical regulations that do not comply with international standards, will be notified by the country.

(g) Private Sector Participation

The participation of the private sector in the implementation of the TBT Agreement is insufficient.

(h) Interest of Private Sector in the WTO Agreements

In this connection, the attitude of the entrepreneurial community is, in general, cautious, although in some countries, it is clearly negative. This is said to be due to the difficulties that exporters are experiencing in connection with subjects concerning the certificate of origin (imported raw materials) found in the various Agreements, with *Ad Valorem* taxes that cancel comparative advantages like labour wages, or with export limitations related with seasonal conditions in agricultural products.

The business community has an incomplete picture of the benefits of the WTO Agreements, particularly of the TBT Agreement and of its benefits in terms of information deriving from notifications and inquiry points and the mechanism of Consultations and Dispute Settlement.

(i) Training needs

There is a need to raise awareness in both the public and private sectors concerning the implications and benefits of the TBT Agreement.

The staff involved in negotiations related to the TBT Agreement needs specific training.

Staff involved in the management of the TBT Agreement need to be trained in the following: management of the notification procedures, procedures for reception, screening and dissemination of notifications, receiving comments, elaboration of consultations to other Members, file and classification of notifications.

(j) Use of INTERNET

In all countries the use of Internet in relation to various aspects of the TBT Agreement, is still very insufficient. In several countries, the government is developing an Internet network to be used by government agencies.

2. Standardisation activities in the visited countries

In all countries where there is a standards body, the level of these activities is important. Standards bodies are well known in the country and they prepare standards according to established international procedures. Furthermore, they are participating in various degrees in international standardisation bodies. Staff is well trained and their information centres are properly equipped for the traditional activities of a standards institution.

Most of the standardisation bodies are elaborating mandatory standards, which make up the largest part of their work.

The use of ISO, IEC and Codex Alimentarius international standards as a basis for the formulation of national standards is very extended.

The principle of reference to standards in the elaboration of technical regulations is applied to certain extent. However, the use of mandatory standards as technical regulations is widely applied.

Standardisation bodies are active in the FAO/WHO Joint Commission of the Codex Alimentarius. Some countries have established a National Committee of the Codex.

Countries requiring the development of standardisation activities should first undertake staff training in this field. The necessary training can take place in other standardisation bodies. National institutions lack funds for this purpose, so provisions should be made to allocate the necessary funds to them.

3. Information and documentation facilities

As already pointed out, standards bodies have information centres which hold partial collections of international and foreign standards. In addition to this, other information centres exist in several countries such as those located in the export promotion bodies or in the chambers of commerce and industry which have some documentation concerning standards and technical regulations.

The use of these facilities varies from one country to the other. Business associations and entrepreneurs are not used to searching and retrieving information and, in many cases, do not know how to properly use information on standards.

Standards information centres offer various services, but they do not usually provide customised services to exporters and importers. There are no services specifically addressed to elaborate technical specifications based on the documents consulted and/or to adapt these standards and technical regulations to a specific manufacturer, taking into account its technological, economic and financial needs and conditions.

4. Conformity assessment activities

Standards bodies are involved in regulatory activities, including inspection and testing. Most of them have their own laboratories usually well-equipped and maintained. Certification systems have been operating for several years mainly focused on the issuing of marks of conformity to product standards, either voluntary or compulsory.

Countries are not using internationally accepted certification marks such as the CB Scheme of the International Electro-Technical Commission for Electrical Safety, for the purpose of regulating imports.

Accreditation systems are at an early stage of development. The participation of accredited private laboratories for mandatory and voluntary certification is becoming a very important subject.

5. Use of quality management and quality assurance techniques

The number of large industries that have certified their quality system in conformity with ISO 9000 standards is quite important in all countries. Although national certification bodies for quality system exist in several countries, ISO 9000 certification is made by international certification institutions and outside the national certification system. In one country, the national standards institution and the foreign certification body make a simultaneous and co-ordinated certification. Such practice facilitates the recognition of the national system.

ISO 9000 certification mark is used mainly for marketing purposes. The use of quality management techniques to improve productivity and product quality is not so widely used.

The use of the HACCP (Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points) is being promoted by the Ministries of Health and other organisations through seminars. Fish product exporting industries are using these techniques. Several Arab countries are facing serious problems in their fish product exports due to the lack of an appropriate governmental legislation, such as a comprehensive Sanitary Code, including Codes of Good Practices (similar to those of the Codex Alimentarius). Moreover, the need for a regulatory agency to supervise the Sanitary Code is apparent.

6. The private sector and its needs

There is a generalised need for information concerning standards and technical regulations. In many instances, this information is available within the country, but this fact is either unknown to entrepreneurs or they are not interested in its utilisation. In most countries, access to European Directives is very limited and USA standards and technical regulations (Code of Federal Regulations) are unknown.

Inspection, testing and certification services are insufficient to meet exporters and importers' needs.

Training facilities in the area of quality management are available in most of the countries. The private sector, however, makes a limited use of them.

Training programmes addressing the particular needs of small and medium enterprises are lacking.

7. **Regional standardisation and technical regulation activities**

The exploration of subjects apt to be submitted to the attention of regional and sub-regional standardisation bodies is beyond the scope of this mission. Nevertheless, the following matters and concerns have been raised during the mission:

- (a) **Guidance on special technical regulations:** Religion and culture can influence the contents of standards and technical regulations. The study of some general guides in this respect can be helpful to several Arab countries, especially in the development of the criteria to align themselves with the WTO Agreements, preserving at the same time their religious and cultural heritage. The climatic and geographical location of many Arab countries makes it necessary for them to adapt some international standards and, consequently, some technical regulations, to the specific conditions prevailing in these countries. The systematisation of these characteristics could be, again, helpful to Arab countries.
- (b) **The standardisation of service industries, including quality management and quality assurance:** The development of service industries is showing a rapid growth, either as a result of the economic development in some countries or of important tourist and/or transit activities in other countries. An analysis of the needs with a view to developing standardisation activities in this field seems advisable.
- (c) **HACCP techniques and training:** The use of HACCP requires the availability of documentation in this area. There is, apparently, a shortage of such documents in Arab language. As already pointed out, fish processing industries are encountering difficulties in this respect. The Codex Alimentarius and FAO have been working on this matter, and a training course manual has just been published by FAO. Translation of these documents into Arabic would facilitate the implementation of training programmes.
- (d) **Standardisation of camel milk:** Camel milk is an important food in many Arab countries. Mauritania is trying to export this product and has faced problems due to the absence of known standards. Djibouti and Yemen are interested in using these standards in order to improve the quality of local production and to envisage exports to neighbouring countries. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is already studying the subject and has prepared a draft document on camel milk standards.
- (e) **Technical regulations on maximum load per axle for trucks:** The severe wearing of roads caused by overloaded trucks is a problem detected in Yemen. The issuing and enforcement of technical regulations on maximum load for trucks seems to be very important to prevent such a damaging and costly effect.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **To Governments**

- To create national committees that will be in charge of coordinating national efforts in the negotiations and in the application/follow-up of the WTO Agreements, particularly of the TBT Agreement.
- To establish specific arrangements and responsibilities regarding compliance with the TBT provisions concerning notifications, as well as regarding the creation of awareness on the subject and the organisation of training activities for the staff.

- To undertake the updating and revision of the national technical regulations and of the regulatory procedures, in order to align them to the WTO Agreements.
- To clearly define the central government authority in charge of notification procedures, as well as the body that will act as inquiry point. In both cases, to allocate the necessary resources to allow for a proper operation in terms of staff, documentation, office space and information technology equipment.
- To define the official publication(s) where information concerning TBT Agreement must be published.
- To request the collaboration of local Delegations of the EU to National Standards Organisations, in order to facilitate access to the collection of the Official Journal of the European Communities.
- To enlarge the documentation available at the information centres of standard bodies, particularly with technical regulations and standards applicable in trading partner countries or regions.
- To apply international certification systems and their conformity marks such as IEC safety mark in the regulatory control of imports.
- To reinforce the national activities on the Codex Alimentarius, creating a National Committee with the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Commerce, Industry, and the private sector. The National Standards Body could be designated as the technical secretariat of this National Committee.
- To ensure adherence to the policy that international standards should be used as a basis to elaborate technical regulations, whenever they are available and appropriate.
- To improve country participation in the activities of all international standardisation bodies (see Annex 3).
- To incorporate systematically the private sector in the negotiations and follow-up of the WTO Agreements. To request the private sector's cooperation in order to optimise the benefit of notifications at national level. Jointly with the private sector, to study which would be the best way to use the TBT Agreement in order to optimise its benefit for the country's international trade.
- To ensure through an appropriate procedure that any new technical regulation project not conforming to international standards and which may affect trade will be notified, through the designated authority, to the WTO Secretariat in Geneva.
- To carry out training activities related to the implementation of the WTO agreements.
- To undertake in selected Arab countries training activities in standardisation techniques and other related matters, through mechanisms like the South-South cooperation or Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).
- To promote the use of technological facilities, including information centres/national enquiring points, by governmental bodies and private sector.
- To adapt the systems for regulatory inspection and certification of imports and exports and for public procurement to internationally accepted certification schemes and guides and to open-up testing and certification activities to duly accredited private sector bodies.

- To develop a comprehensive program to improve the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises including quality management and productivity aspects.

2. To the business community

- To propose to the Government ways in which they can participate systematically and institutionally in negotiations for gaining access to the WTO Agreements and in their follow-up.
- To collaborate with the Government on the efficient implementation of the provisions of the TBT Agreement, especially on the treatment of the notifications coming from other Members, through their participation in the screening of incoming notifications and in the establishment of one or more institutional channels, to convey notifications to concerned sectors and companies.
- To improve the entrepreneurs' awareness of the TBT Agreement and its implications for them.
- To coordinate their information needs regarding standards and technical regulations with the national standards body.
- To use their publications to promote the use of information centres, inquiry points and other TBT related activities.
- To promote the use of the technological facilities existing in the country in applied research institutes, export promotion centres, standards bodies, training institutions, etc.
- To inform the Government on unjustified technical barriers to trade applied to their exports.

3. To the national standards bodies

- To propose to the Government the updating and revision of laws and technical regulations concerning its responsibilities and activities in order to adjust them to the TBT Agreement provisions.
- To adapt their information services according to the requirements established in the TBT Agreement for national enquiry points.
- To apply for membership of ISONET.
- To adapt their standards and standardisation practices to the provisions of the Code of Standardisation Practice, annexed to the TBT Agreement.
- To examine jointly with the private sector the needs for new standards and technical regulations, in order to support the country's international trade.
- To establish a good working relationship with foreign and regional embassies and delegations so as to be able to consult related documentation, such as European Directives and the USA Code of Federal Regulations.
- To ensure the availability of all necessary international standards that will make it possible for them to actually implement the principle of elaborating technical regulations based on international standards and to serve the needs of the business community.
- To assist the business community on the appropriate understanding and use of notifications.
- To train the business community on the use and benefits of standards.



- To develop the most effective strategy to enable them to become a national forum in standardisation, enjoying the trust and collaboratino of the private sector.
- To adapt their information services to the needs of importers and exporters.
- To adapt their certification activities according to the needs of exporters and importers.
- To promote the use of ISO 9000 standards in quality management, quality cost reduction and productivity improvement as a mean to enhance competitiveness and facilitate access to international markets.
- To promote the use of HACCP techniques in the fish and other food related industries.
- To develop the kind of publications that will allow them to inform about their standardisation programmes and activities.
- To increase the use of Internet in their activities, including the creation of a web page.

4. To AIDMO

- To analyse which of the needs of standards bodies relevant to the TBT Agreement can be more economically and efficiently met at regional level by AIDMO.
- To specially analyse the possibility of developing regional information and documentation services for standard technical regulations.
- To examine the possibility of issuing a periodical publication including standardisation programs, new draft standards and newly issued national standards, in order to facilitate the compliance of Member Countries with the TBT information provisions.
- To check the present availability of AIDMO standards among the different AIDMO member countries and update their collections, if necessary.
- To provide or facilitate training activities on standardisation and related aspects in the TBT Agreement among AIDMO members.
- To consider the preparation of regional standards and documents in the fields suggested by the consultant in this report.
- To prepare general guidance on the preparation of standards and technical regulations and their linkages with specific religious and cultural aspects.
- To define special characteristics to be considered in the elaboration of standards and technical regulations, due to the climatic and geographical conditions prevailing in Arab countries.
- To consider the possibility of starting work in the following areas:
 - Standardisation of the service industries, including quality management and quality assurance;
 - Standardisation of camel milk;
 - Introduction of HACCP techniques and training;
 - Criteria on maximum load per axle for trucks.

5. To ITC

- To consider the possibility of providing further technical cooperation to the less developed countries of the region such as Djibouti, Mauritania, Yemen and Sudan in order to strengthen their national capabilities in the field of standards, particularly the information and documentation handling capability, including the provision of information technology equipment (PC with Internet access, fax, telephone, fotocopying machine), documentation, training and advisory services.
- To consider the possibility of providing continued cooperation to AIDMO to increase its capability to assist the member countries in aspects related to the application of the TBT Agreement, particularly in relation to information, certification and accreditation, with the view of providing exporters, importers, producers and other economic operators with easy and efficient access to those services.

Annex 1**JOB DESCRIPTION**

(March 1998)

Project Title: Follow-up to the Uruguay Round - Support to Arab Enterprises in the fields of Quality and Information-Related Aspects of the Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS).

Project

Number: RAB/96/001/A/01/31

Job Title: Consultant on Standardisation and Quality Assurance Aspects in the U.R. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

Duty Station: Geneva, Rabat and other Arab Capitals (Cairo, Tunis, Nouakchott, Djibouti, Amman, Riyadh in 1998; Manama, Kuwait, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Algiers, Muscat and Khartoum in 1999).

Duration: Two months (2) in 1998 and one(1) month in 1999.

Starting date: September 1998.

Background:

Arab countries can benefit from the TBT and SPS Agreements by using them as a means to enhance their export development efforts and, in particular, by taking appropriate advantage of their provisions concerning transparency, harmonisation, non-discrimination, the obligation that standards and technical regulations should not be used to create unnecessary obstacles to international trade as well as the provisions on technical assistance and other benefits.

Furthermore, and in order to benefit significantly from these Agreements, Arab countries should make every effort to establish or upgrade their institutional arrangements and mechanisms related to technical information, standardisation, quality assurance, technical regulations, inspection, testing, certification and accreditation, and take the necessary steps to play an active role in international standardisation and certification activities.

As of January 1998, 132 countries have already joined the WTO and 28 other countries are pursuing accession. The number of Arab countries who have been full members of WTO has reached nine, The State of Bahrain, the Republic of Djibouti, Arab Republic of Egypt, State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, State of Qatar, the Republic of Tunisia and United Arab Emirates). Five other Arab countries are pursuing accession to the WTO (The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Sudan).

This project will assist participating Arab countries in identifying the needs of Arab enterprises concerning technical information (on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment requirements) and corresponding services such as testing, inspection, certification and accreditation and the need to participate effectively in international standardisation activities in areas relevant to the products moving in their international trade or that have high export potential generated by the improvement of market access conditions.

Main duties:

Under the overall supervision of the Chief, Functional Advisory Services Section and technical guidance of the ITC Senior Adviser on Export Quality Management and working in co-ordination with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO), the Consultant will undertake the following duties:

- To assess in each of the designated participating countries the needs of the exporters and importers in the leading sectors regarding information and technical support in the quality field including quality management practices, quality requirements in target markets, standardisation, testing, inspection and certification services, accreditation, training, consultancy, etc., particularly within the framework of the provisions in the TBT Agreement.
- To advise representatives of the business sector and trade support institutions (including AIDMO) on ways and means to effectively take advantage of the provisions in the TBT Agreement particularly with respect to access to information, identification of unjustified technical barriers to trade, participation in international standardisation activities, access to TBT related services, establishment or improvement of TBT related services, cooperation between the business community and the trade authorities, access to WTO TBT related mechanisms, etc.
- To assist in the preparation and presentation of seminars or other training events related to the project.
- To prepare a report with main findings and recommendations addressed to the business community, trade support institutions and trade ministries in each of the countries visited.
- To present this report to the concerned parties in each of the countries visited through a half day seminar to be organised by the national standardisation body or, in its absence, any other focal point designated by AIDMO.
- To submit copies of this report to AIDMO and ITC in paper and diskette (IBM compatible)

Qualifications: University degree in sciences or technology, preferably in areas related to industrial or manufacturing engineering, business management, industrial standardisation and quality assurance/management. Substantive experience (10 or more years) in managerial positions in export oriented industries, including in developing countries, or in trade support organisations such as national standards bodies, export or import quality inspection and certification institutions, testing laboratories or related bodies. Familiarity with the process of elaboration or application of standards, technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures and their corresponding information and dissemination modalities. Familiarity with the quality related international trade rules and practices including testing, inspection and certification requirements in major markets and the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

Languages: English or French (according to the countries to be visited). Arabic will be an asset.

Annex 2**Persons and institutions visited****AIDMO**

Mr. Talaat Al Defer, Director General Assistant
Eng. Ahmed Abbas Abbas, Director, Country Services, Engineering Industries Studies
Dr. Abdul Karim Jassim, Director of Mining
Eng. Mhmoud Khasawneh, Director Center of Standardization
Mr. Abdel Moniem M. Mahmoud, Director Information and Technology Transfer Dept.
Mr. Samad Abdelhk, Standardization Centre
Mr. Tewfik Mansour, Library
Mr. Medawar Dib, Library

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat**

Mr. Aziz DRISSI YAHYAOUNI, Chef de Service OMC, Direction des Relations Commerciales Internationales
Mr. Najib KALAI TLAMSNI, Responsable de la Cellule Informatique et Information, Direction des Relations Commerciales Internationales

Service de la Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine (SNIMA)

Mr. Mekki Kabbaj, Chef de Service, Direction de la Normalisation et de la Promotion de la Qualité
M. AbderrHIM Taibi, Chef de la Division de Normalisation
Ing. M. Abdellah NEJJAR, Directeur de la Normalisation et de la Promotion de la Qualité

Confederation Générale des Entreprises du Maroc

Mlle. Asmaa TAZI, Organisation du Secteur Privé
Mlle. Farida AFKIR, Chargée d'études, Commission Economique et Financière

Association Marocaine des Exportateurs

M. Abdelaziz BELLHANCEN Chargé de Mission

REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE**Ministère des Mines et de l'Industrie**

Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Mamoun, Secrétaire Général du Ministère
Mr. Ahmadou Ould Hamoud, Directeur de l'Industrie
Mr. Sidi Ali Ould Teyib, Directeur de la Direction de la Normalisation et de la Propriété Industrielle
Mr. Idrissa Cissoko, Chef de Division de la Normalisation et de la Métrologie

Primature

Mr. Moustapha Ould Cheikh, Directeur de l'Edition du Journal Officiel

Confederation des Employeurs de la Mauritanie (CGEM)

Mr. Cheikh Ould Moutar EL HASSAN, Secrétaire Général
Mr. Diallo, Chef de Projet BIT CASP (Cellule d'Assistance au Secteur Privé)

PNUD

Mr. Silly Gandega, Economiste PNUD

Mr. Karim Maamer, Chargé de Programme (VNU), PNUD

Centre d'Information Mauritanien pour le Développement Economique et Technique CIMDET

Mme. Annie Bauer, Directrice

Ministère du Commerce

Directeur ad-interim de la Direction de Commerce Extérieur, Chef de Service

Mr. Mohamed Ould Hitt, Chef de Service, Direction Approvisionnement et Concurrence

Comité de Pilotage de la Normalisation

En addition aux représentants du Ministère des Mines et de l'Industrie (Mr. le Directeur de l'Industrie, Mr. Sidi Ali Ould Teyib et M. Adrissa Cissoko), le consultant a rencontré les membres suivants du Comité:

Mr. Ceyid Ould Abdelkahi, Secrétaire Général Adjoint de la CGEM

Mr. Mohamed Ali Ould Sidi Mohamed, Conseiller du Ministre de l'Hydraulique et l'Energie

Mr. Mohamed Seyidi, Directeur de Bâtiment et de l'Urbanisme

Mr. Mohamed Ould Etheimine, Secrétaire Général de la Fédération des Industries et des Mines

EGYPT

Ministry of Industry and Mineral Wealth

Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation

Prof. Ali A. EL NAGGAR. President

Eng. Fattahalla Emara. Head of Quality Control Centre (Q.C.C)

Chemist Magdi A. Barakat. Director General Specifications Department

Eng. Moutasem M. Orabi. Head Quality Control Engineering Department

Dr. Aberf Taha Ahmed. Head of Information Department

Mrs. Zenabe Goda. Head of Foreign Affairs and TBT

Mr. Mohammoud Arafa Eweis. Head of Physical Measurement Department

Ms. Sadia Souilum. Head of Textile Department

Ms. Seham Younis. Head of Chemical Department

Ms. Fadia Abd El Ranuff.

Ms. Fayzaa Al Said Esmail

Mr. Mahmoud

Ministry of Trade and Supply

Mr. Sayed Abou El Komsan. Undersecretary of State, Foreign Trade Sector

Mr. Bassem F. Badr. Commercial Attaché

Mr. Abd El Rahman Fawzy. Head of Anti-Dumping Body

Ms. Thanaa M. Goher. Economist

Ms. Amany El Wassal. Researcher

Egyptian Export Promotion Center

Ms. Dr. Nabila Mohamed Attia. General Director of Specialized Research Department.

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency-Technical Cooperation Office for the Environment

Ms. Dahlia Lotayef. Director

Eng. Mounir Bushra. SWM Program Manager

Dr. Adham Ramadan. Program Manager, Hazardous Substances Unit

Dr. Farek M. Abdel-Hamid. Program Manager, Land and Water, Energy, Heritage

Dr. John Flyvbjerg. Environmental Management Advisor

Ms. Heba Behairy. Program Officer, Donor Coordination Unit

Mr. Walid Darwish. Program Officer, Industry Unit

Eng. Abeer Shahin. Program Officer

Dr. Eng. Nader Riad. Chairman Bavaria Egypt S.A.E.

Mr. Samir Hassan Allam. Chairman Chamber of Building Materials

UNDP

Ms. Amany Wadie Nakhla. Program Officer

Mr. Sheif Tokhi. Program Officer

Ms. Nahla Zeiton. Program Officer

TUNISIA**Ministère de l'Agriculture**

M. CHAFFAI Abderrahmane

Ministère du Commerce

Mme. ANNABI Ghaiet El Mouna

Mme. CHALOUL Khédija, Directeur chargée des Relations avec l'OMC

Ministère de l'Industrie

Mme. LAROUSSE Noura, Directeur de la Promotion et de la Programmation Industrielle

UTICA

M. MILADI Abdelhamid, Conseiller

Mme. Shérézade BEL AIBA, Directeur de Coopération Economique International

Mr. Aroua ABDELLATIF, Directeur de l'Industrie

Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire

M. R'HAÏEM Salah, Directeur

INNORPI

M. CHAOUCH Mohamed, Directeur Executif

Mme. DALI Faika, Chef du Departement de Normalisation et Certification

Mme. Narjes REZGUI, Chef de service Relations Exterieures

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Ministry of Industry

Mr. Abdul Rhman M.A. Othman, Minister of Industry

Dr. Abdullah Attomar, Acting Deputy Minister

Mr. Abdul-Malik Ali Ahmed Sharafuddin, Director General, International Relations Department

Dr. Yahya Y. Almutawakel

Yemen Standardisation, Metrology and Quality Control Organisation

Mr. Jamal Mohammed Abdul-Rahman, Director General

Mr. Abdoul Raman Afif, Head of Food Department

Mr. Mansour Shamsan Al-Asbahi, Head of Standards Department

Mr. Hussin Al Weshah, Head of Quality Assurance Department

Mr. Ahmed Abu Talhb, Head of the Documentation and Information Centre

Mr. Abdulkarem Al-Doaes, Head of Administrative and Financial Department

Mr. Saeed ba Wazer, Consultant

Ministry of Trade and Supply

Mr. Mohammed Abdul Aziz Ghaleb, Director General, International Economic Relations

Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Arashi, Deputy Assistant Minister

Mr. Ali Al-Maqtari, Director General for Agricultural Marketing Department

Ministry of Public Health

Dr. Ahmed A. Nomani, Director General Supreme Board of Drugs & Medical Appliances

Ministry of Fish Wealth

Mr. Yahia Ali Zabarah, Deputy Minister

Mr. Abdul Bey Feghori, Assistant Deputy Minister

Customs Authority

Mr. Mohamed Al-Habub, Chairman of the Authority

Yemen Export Supreme Council

Mr. Nagib M. Yousof, Secretary General Asst.

Mr. Amar M. Al Eryani, Secretary General Asst.

European Commission Technical Advisory Office

Mr. Rainer Freund

UNDP

Mr. Khaled Alloush, Deputy Resident Representative

Mr. Habib A.I. Sheriff, National Programme Officer

FAO

Mr. Syeed Shadid Mahdi, FAO Representative

Fayel Saeed Anam & Co. Ltd.

Mr. Mohamed Abdo Saeed, Executive Director

Annex 3**List of international standardizing bodies**

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Specification, sampling and analysis of food products; food hygiene; pesticide residues; contaminants; labelling; essential composition; nutritional aspects; veterinary drug residues; food import/export inspection and certification systems.
- Co-operation Centre for Scientific Research relative to Tobacco (CORESTA) Analysis and testing of tobacco and tobacco products.
- Euro-International Committee for Concrete (CEB) International recommendations and Codes of Practice for use in building and civil engineering work.
- FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) Dental materials; dental instruments and equipment; working environment of the dentist.
- Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF). International carriage of dangerous goods.
- International Air Transport Association (IATA) Standards for: airport and passenger services, cargo services, cargo and passenger agents.
- International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC) Testing and analysis of cereals and cereal products.
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear and radiation safety standards.
- International Bureau for the Standardization of Man-made Fibres (BISFA) Specification and testing of man-made fibres.
- International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) Units, standards and methods of measurement of physical quantities.
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air transport; air navigation; aviation safety; airport designs; airworthiness; aircraft noise; international law, etc.
- International Commission for Uniform Methods of Sugar Analysis (ICUMSA) Methods of sugar analysis.
- International Commission on Illumination (CIE) Metrology in the fields of light, lighting and colour; science, technology and art of light, lighting and colour.
- International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) Irrigation and drainage; terminology.
- International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) Radiation units and measurements; radiation dosimetry.
- International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) Radiation hazards and radiation protection.

- International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation (CIB) Recommendations or recommended methods for use in medical practice.
- International Council for Standardization in Haematology (ICSH) Recommendation or recommended methods for use in medical practice.
- International Council on Combustion Engines (CIMAC) Acceptance tests for combustion engines; noise, pollution.
- International Dairy Federation (IDF) Milk and milk products (composition, sampling and analysis); milk farm and factory equipment; disinfectants.
- International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) Classification.
- International Federation of Fruit Juice Producers (IFJU) Fruit juice analysis.
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Bibliographic control and other aspects of library matters.
- International Gas Union (IGU) Gas transmission distribution and utilization safety; use of SI units in gas industry.
- International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) Tests of thermal performances of insulated vehicles; test of insulated materials; refrigerated storage and transport of perishable foodstuffs; food freezing; refrigerating equipment; terminology.
- International Institute of Welding (IIW) Welding and allied processes.
- International Labour Office (ILO) Working conditions and environment; occupational safety and health; equality of treatment between men and women; non-discrimination; rights of tribal and indigenous peoples; employment.
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) Maritime safety; prevention of pollution from ships; facilitation of international maritime traffic.
- International Office of Epizootics (OIE) Advice on standardization of procedures in the preparation of biologicals (vaccines, sera, diagnostic reagents, etc.) to control epizootics.
- International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) Table olives; olive oil; olive-pomace oils.
- International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) Measuring methods and units; Measuring devices and instruments; verification and control of measuring devices (from a legal point of view)
- International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Seed testing. International Silk Association (ISA) Silk testing and classification.
- International Telecommunication Union - Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-BR) Radiocommunications.
- International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardization Sector All aspects of telecommunication equipment, systems, network and voice and non-voice services, including: telegraphy; telephony; data communication; telematics; message handling; audio-visual; multimedia; integrated services digital networks; universal personal telecommunication; intelligent networks. All

technical, operating and administrative areas, including: service definition; network operation; numbering and routing; traffic engineering; maintenance and telecommunication management network; tariff and accounting principles; data networks; open systems interconnection; switching and signalling; quality of service and performance management; transmission media, systems and equipment.

- International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS) Analysis and testing of leather.
- International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Nomenclature, terminology, symbols, quantities and units in chemistry.
- International Union of Railways (UIC) Projects and studies necessary to the improvement of international rail traffic.
- International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures (RILEM) Nomenclature and testing of building materials and structures.
- International Vine and Wine Office (OIV) Methods of wine analysis; oenology; labelling.
- International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) Testing of wool textiles.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Scientific and technological information and documentation, libraries and archives.
- World Customs Organization (WCO) Classification; customs valuation; customs procedures; customs applications of computers. Adoption of a standardized goods declaration form (Single Goods Declaration).
- World Health Organization (WHO) All matters directly or indirectly related to health, including biological and pharmaceutical substances, food additives, pesticides, pesticide residues in food, food safety, air and water quality, diagnostic procedures, terminology, nomenclature and classification.
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Patents; trademarks; industrial designs; appellations of origin; copyright; neighbouring rights; classification systems.
- World meteorological Organization (WMO) Meteorological and hydrological observations; agricultural, aeronautical and marine meteorology; data processing and telecommunications.



The TBT Agreement

INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Government responsibilities and advantages.

Benefits and responsibilities of the private sector

Government awareness is too much restricted to the Ministry responsible of the relation with WTO. Other Ministries should be more involved and play their role.

There is a better understanding of it in countries where the economy is directed towards diversified exports and standardisation activities are well developed.

There is a lack of awareness in the private sector about the advantages of the TBT Agreement.

In several countries, the private sector looks the TBT Agreements suspiciously as it is opening the market and creating conditions in which competition is harder.

The advantages of the TBT Agreement cannot be presented in isolation, particularly to the private sector. It is necessary to show the whole picture of the WTO Agreements and the new frame under which they place international trade. The private sector has other priorities.

The private sector should participate actively in the management of the Agreement, taking its share of responsibilities.

Collaboration between both sectors is essential.

MANAGEMENT OF THE TBT AGREEMENT

The use of a national committee to deal with the accession to WTO is general. Most of the countries maintain such a committee in order to follow up on the country's participation.

The responsibilities of the committee members must be clarified and clearly assigned. They should include awareness and information activities on the contents of the WTO Agreements and collaboration with the regulatory departments of their own Ministry, both on the terms under which the new technical regulations should be prepared and when they should be notified.

The treatment of the notifications received at the central government authority must be improved. Each country should develop a procedure to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the notifications in order that they may reach potentially affected sectors. Government cannot by itself carry out this task and private sector should take its responsibility.

Country notifications: Regulatory bodies of all government agencies must be familiarised with the criteria that define when a notification must be made. Also they must be acquainted with the international standards used in the fields of their regulatory activities and where those documents are available. Standardisation bodies have an important role to play in this respect. A procedure must be established. The central government authority and the national committee members must supervise its application.

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

Countries should analyse the implications of the TBT Agreement regarding the subjects in which technical regulations or mandatory standards can be applied.

Government bodies and standards organisations should initiate a long term program of reviewing and updating their technical regulations and standards.

The use of mandatory standards must be carefully analysed in several countries

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Standardisation bodies should promote the use of international and foreign conformity assessment systems and procedures, to facilitate the inspection of imports and to improve consumer's safety and health. For instance, the CB Scheme for electrical products and the recognition of conformity marks (on a case by case basis).

Holders of conformity marks should be granted advantages concerning regulatory inspection.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness and knowledge of the WTO Agreements and, specifically of the TBT Agreement, are clearly insufficient in all countries. Training and awareness raising are essential. Training material developed recently by WTO should be used and AIDMO could translate the material into Arabic.

Training must be differentiated according to the degree of participation and responsibilities on the TBT Agreement and in the WTO in general.

Training must include members of the national committee, the central government authority, the enquiry point or points, the regulatory agencies and the private sector.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION ACTIVITIES

Participation in the IEC activities must be encouraged. Many countries must improve their access to IEC standards.

Countries must develop bilateral, sub regional or regional arrangements.

Standardisation bodies should establish links and get information on all international bodies carrying out standardisation activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO AIDMO

- To define and develop regional activities in standardisation, accreditation and documentation in the situations where their development is not feasible at national level.

To reinforce regional information and documentation services for standards and technical regulations. IEC Standards, EU Directives, US Technical regulations (Code of Federal Regulations), etc.

To elaborate regional standards in specific fields, such as:

- service industries
- camel milk and meat
- HACCP systems for specific food industries

To prepare a document covering training activities (and their costs) that are available in Arab standardisation bodies