



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

TRAINFORTRADE

2003-2004

ACTIVITY REPORT
August 2003 – December 2004



UNITED NATIONS

UNCTAD / SDTE / TIB / 2004 / 5

COPYRIGHT © UNITED NATIONS 2004

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Table of contents

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 1. | Introduction | 4 |
| 2. | The strategy | 5 |
| 3. | UNCTAD XI | 6 |
| 3.1 | Implications of the outcome of UNCTAD XI on the work of TRAINFORTRADE | 6 |
| 3.2 | Pre-UNCTAD XI High-Level International Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism for Development | 6 |
| 4. | Activities undertaken between August 2003 and September 2004 | 8 |
| 4.1 | Course design | 8 |
| 4.1.1 | Design of training material with distance learning components..... | 9 |
| 4.2 | Available courses | 9 |
| 4.3 | Delivery of training courses | 10 |
| 4.4 | Distance learning | 11 |
| 4.4.1 | Evaluation of TRAINFORTRADE distance learning | 11 |
| 4.4.2 | Cooperation with other UNCTAD divisions and programmes | 12 |
| 4.4.3 | Results August 2003 – December 2004..... | 12 |
| 5. | Regional cooperation and networking..... | 13 |
| 5.1 | Regional Project for Cambodia and Lao PDR (RAS/OT/2CK) | 13 |
| 5.2 | Cooperation with regional groupings | 13 |
| 5.3 | Port Training Programme activities 2003-2004..... | 14 |
| 5.3.1 | Development of pedagogical material | 14 |
| 5.3.2 | Implementation | 15 |
| 5.3.3 | Strengthening the Programme: TRAINFORTRADE coordination meeting, Geneva, September 2004 | 15 |
| 6. | Cooperation with institutions from developed countries..... | 16 |
| 7. | Support of donors for technical assistance activities | 17 |
| 8. | Advisory Group on the Strengthening of UNCTAD’s Training Capacities and Human Resources Development | 18 |
| 9. | TRAINFORTRADE priorities to the end of 2005..... | 19 |

1. Introduction

Welcome to the 2003-2004 Activity Report of UNCTAD's TRAINFORTRADE programme.

Launched in 1988, TRAINFORTRADE is an UNCTAD programme for training and human resource capacity building in the fields of international trade, trade-related services, investment and port management.

2004 has been an important year for TRAINFORTRADE : In São Paulo, in June 2004, UNCTAD XI confirmed the mandate to develop human resource capacity in the field of trade.¹

This confirmation reiterates the mandate from UNCTAD X, held in Bangkok in 2000, where member States requested the extension of TRAINFORTRADE activities, particularly in the least developed countries (LDCs).²

The commitment of member States to the work of TRAINFORTRADE was also recognized at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001. Concrete proposals were put forward for the implementation of TRAINFORTRADE technical assistance projects in Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar and Togo.

¹ Paragraph 95 of the São Paulo Consensus.

² Paragraphs 159, 160 and 162 of the Bangkok Plan of Action

2. The strategy

TRAINFORTRADE training and capacity building activities are based on a high-quality and coherent capacity development strategy that derives from:

1. A rigorous **methodology**

The development of training materials is based on the **Train-X (TRAINFORTRADE)** methodology, common to several UN agencies. It consists of nine phases. Phases 1-3 focus on the analysis of training needs, phases 4-6 on course development, and phases 6-9 concentrate on the implementation and evaluation of training. Courses are then translated and adapted to local contexts according to the needs of beneficiary countries

2. **A train-the-trainers** approach

The **training of trainers** approach has been adopted to create a cascade effect and to facilitate sustainability at the national and regional levels. Specialists in the relevant subjects are identified and trained in order to guarantee the partial or total delivery of courses at the local level so as to ensure that training projects are sustainable.

3. The use of **distance learning tools**

Training through **distance learning** is conducted along the following lines:

- Development of pedagogical material adapted to a hybrid approach combining face-to-face training activities with distance learning, where appropriate;
- Evaluation of the ICT capacities available in beneficiary countries;
- Adaptation of distance learning tools to the local and regional context.
- Review of distance learning training activities developed and carried out by other agencies or institutions, in order to maximize potential synergies and to avoid duplication;

The TRAINFORTRADE team works with UNCTAD programmes to design learning materials and deliver training courses. This approach draws on a wide range of specialist substantive expertise and gives the programme its comparative advantage and added value.

To help ensure sustainability at the local level, beneficiaries are expected to share some of the costs incurred by technical assistance projects. In some cases, such as the port management programme, beneficiary countries cover all the costs of training activities.

3.1 Implications of the outcome of UNCTAD XI on TRAINFORTRADE work

UNCTAD XI provided an excellent occasion to reiterate the importance of the organization's work in the field of training and capacity building. Paragraph 95 of the São Paulo Consensus mandates the UNCTAD secretariat to "...build on and strengthen the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action ... To achieve this aim, UNCTAD should ... help strengthen human resources, know-how and competences and institutional and regulatory frameworks and infrastructure in the field of trade..."

The launch of the partnership on training, capacity building and networking (paragraph 114 and annex of the Consensus) also confirmed the interest of member States in sustained training and capacity building programmes. In particular the partnership confirms strong interest in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in capacity building and the value of the distance learning activities carried out by the TRAINFORTRADE programme.

The many parallel events at UNCTAD XI also provided an opportunity to showcase the excellent cooperation between the Human Resource Development section and other substantive divisions and programmes in UNCTAD.

3.2 Pre-UNCTAD XI High-Level International Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism for Development – Lisbon, Portugal (March 2004)

UNCTAD XI also confirmed the Bangkok mandate on sustainable tourism for development (paragraph 99 of the Consensus). Following the Declaration adopted at the pre-UNCTAD XI International High-Level Meeting on Sustainable Tourism for Development, held in Lisbon in March 2004, TRAINFORTRADE is developing a course on this subject.

The meeting, organized by the TRAINFORTRADE team on behalf of the UNCTAD Task Force on Sustainable Tourism for Development, brought together 60 participants from 44 countries and 5 international organizations. Experts at the meeting agreed upon the Lisbon Declaration and put forward a set of recommendations to promote the development of sustainable tourism.

UNCTAD's approach in sustainable tourism for development follows three broad areas that are implemented through advisory services and human resource development activities:

- (a)** Strengthening the capacity of institutions to participate more effectively in international trade negotiations and to create more efficient investment promotion in the tourism sector;
- (b)** Encouraging local entrepreneurial involvement in the tourism economy while at the same time promoting sound macroeconomic policies that provide an adequate regulatory framework for investment;
- (c)** Promoting the use of information and communication technology for developing tourism, in particular the use of dedicated platforms for the marketing of resources.

This approach was supported by the tourism and development experts at the meeting. They also invited UNCTAD and its partner agencies to coordinate their efforts and consider establishing a new UN inter-agency mechanism³. TRAINFORTRADE will participate in these discussions, which are currently being held at the initiative of the World Tourism Organization.

TRAINFORTRADE has also been involved in the definition of integrated technical assistance programmes at the request of UNCTAD member States. In particular, a fact-finding mission has been carried out to Benin and an integrated technical assistance project for the development of sustainable tourism, including human resources development, is now being prepared.

³ A meeting was held in Madrid on 22-23 November 2004 with the objective of enhancing interagency coordination in the field of tourism, with the participation of, WTO, UNCTAD, WMO, WHO, UNESCWA, UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, ICAO, ILO, ITC.

4. Activities undertaken between August 2003 and December 2004

4.1 Course design

In the last 12 months, training material has been developed on four subjects:

- International Investment Agreements
- Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Services
- Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Agriculture
- ICT in ports

4.1.1 Design of training material with distance learning components

In the past 12 months, an extensive distance learning course for negotiators of international investment agreements has been designed in collaboration with the UNCTAD International Investment Arrangements section. The course exists in English, French and Spanish and consists of five modules covering the major issues in international investment agreements. Each module includes video and audio presentations, relevant case studies and online assessments to support the participant.

In collaboration with the UNCTAD Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch, distance learning modules have been developed covering some of the key areas in multilateral trade negotiations. They include courses in French and English in Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Agriculture and Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Services. In addition, an innovative distance learning simulation exercise on trade in services has been produced to provide hands-on experience of the negotiation process to future negotiators.

Additionally, the successfully validated TRAINFORTRADE course on the Legal Aspects of E-commerce is being adapted for use in distance learning.

4.2 Available courses

| Pedagogical material | | Distance learning component | Offered in | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|------------|--------|---------|------------|
| | | | English | French | Spanish | Portuguese |
| 1 | Course development workshop | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 | Instructors' workshop | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Tutors' workshop | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| International Trade and Trade-related Services | | Distance learning component | Offered in | | | |
| | | | English | French | Spanish | Portuguese |
| 1 | Trade, Environment and Development | ✓ (French version only) | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 2 | Formulation of a Competition Law and Policy | ✓ (French version only) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Implementation of a Competition Law and Policy | ✓ (French version only) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5 | International trade financing procedures | | | ✓ | | |
| 6 | Practice of e-commerce | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 7 | Legal aspects of e-commerce | | ✓ | | | |
| 9 | Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Services | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 10 | Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Investment | | Distance learning component | Offered in | | | |
| | | | English | French | Spanish | Portuguese |
| 1 | Third-Generation Investment Promotion, Investor Targeting | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 2 | International Investment Agreements | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Logistics and Ports | | Distance learning component | Offered in | | | |
| | | | English | French | Spanish | Portuguese |
| 1 | Modern Port Management: Port Training Programme | ✓ (only Module 5c) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 3 | Multimodal Transport and Logistics | | | ✓ | | |

4.3 Delivery of training courses

Between August 2003 and December 2004, TRAINFORTRADE courses, both face to face and distance learning, have been delivered in 73⁴ countries.

Table 2: **TRAINFORTRADE Training August 2003- December 2004⁵**

| Course | Region | Number of deliveries | Number of trainees |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Negotiators of International Investment Agreements | West Africa | 2 | 66 |
| | South East Africa | 2 | 112 |
| | Asia | 2 | 71 |
| | South America | 2 | 46 |
| | Caribbean | 1 | 29 |
| | East Europe | 1 | 27 |
| Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Services and Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Agriculture | West Africa | 2 | 78 |
| | South East Asia | 4 | 77 |
| Formulation of Competition Law and Policy | South East Asia | 1 | 28 |
| Implementation of Competition Law and Policy | South East Asia | 1 | 20 |
| | Africa | 1 | 47 |
| Computerization and Electronic Data Interchange (Port Training Programme) | Africa | 1 | 18 |
| Pedagogical Training | West Africa | 1 | 15 |
| | South East Asia | 1 | 16 |
| Total | | 22 | 650 |

⁴ Full list of countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

⁵ This table does not include the long-term workshops on "Modern Management of Ports" of the TRAINFORTRADE Port Training Programme (see paragraph 5.3)

4.4 Distance learning (DL)

Over the past 12 months there have been significant developments in TRAINFORTRADE distance learning activities. 2003-2004 saw the implementation and evaluation of the Belgium funded distance learning project: Capacity Building Programme on Training in Selected International Economic Issues which has funded the development and delivery of distance learning in key areas on the international economic agenda. Specifically, this project developed and implemented distance learning programmes on International Investment Agreements and Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy in 4 countries in West Africa (Benin, Guinea, Mali and Togo) and 2 countries in South East Asia (Lao PDR and Cambodia).

Because of the flexibility of DL, the courses developed in these subjects have also been used more widely. For example, the course in International Investment Agreements was delivered in 5 countries in Eastern Europe over 6 weeks in November and December 2004 and a Spanish version was developed for Latin American countries and was used to train 46 people.

4.4.1 Evaluation of TRAINFORTRADE Distance Learning

In the summer of 2004 the Belgium funded distance learning project was evaluated by an independent consultant and distance learning specialist. The project was praised for its innovative use of ICT in Least Developed Countries. In particular, the evaluation referred to the development of high-quality DL materials and techniques in ways that were adapted to the particular needs of developing countries, specifically the least developed. The evaluation also highlighted the success of the project in using DL to reduce the cost of training and to reach more participants. In addition, the evaluation recommended that a regional approach should be adopted for distance learning so as to promote networking, south-south cooperation and that regional organizations should be the privileged counterparts for these initiatives.

Conclusions of the independent Distance Learning evaluation:

- The project used DL techniques in new ways that are relevant and adapted to the particular needs of developing countries.
- It indicates that there is strong interest in using DL within UNCTAD.
- DL has been particularly efficient in reducing the cost of the training, when compared to similar DL projects put in place by other international organizations.
- The project facilitated the sharing of knowledge within and between beneficiary countries. As such, it offers a model for exchanging experiences and building networks.
- It has allowed for a better definition of the beneficiary countries' technological needs through the specific identification of their requirements for DL.

The evaluation recommended a potential extension and enlargement of this distance learning project to other training themes, countries or regional organizations.

TRAINFORTRADE has integrated new distance learning tools into the web-based distance learning platform: Video-conferencing has been tested in Cambodia, Brazil and Senegal; animated Flash presentations have been used to add interactivity to distance learning modules and more user-friendly video versions of help files have been integrated into the web platform and trainees' CD ROMs..

4.4.2 Cooperation with other UNCTAD divisions and programmes

Distance learning has offered significant opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with other UNCTAD divisions and programmes. TRAINFORTRADE has provided pedagogical and technical support to substantive divisions to support and enhance the reach and effectiveness of their training and capacity building work.

The cooperation between divisions has facilitated and enhanced the capacity building work of all interested parties through using existing resources and networks in partner countries. Indeed, as highlighted in the distance learning evaluation, the use of distance learning has enhanced the face-to-face delivery of substantive courses.

4.4.3 Results August 2003-December 2004

Table 3 : TRAINFORTRADE Distance Learning August 2003- October 2004

| Course | Region | Number of deliveries | Number of trainees |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Negotiators of International Investment Agreements | West Africa | 2 | 66 |
| | South-East Africa | 2 | 112 |
| | Asia | 2 | 71 |
| | Latin America | 2 | 46 |
| | Caribbean | 1 | 29 |
| | East Europe | 1 | 27 |
| Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Services and Multilateral Negotiations on Trade in Agriculture | West Africa | 2 | 78 |
| | South-East Asia | 4 | 77 |
| Computerization and Electronic Data Interchange (Port Training Programme) | Africa | 1 | 18 |
| Pedagogical Training (Training of DL tutors) | West Africa | 1 | 15 |
| | South-East Asia | 1 | 16 |
| Total | | 19 | 555 |

5. Regional cooperation and networking

5.1 Regional Project for Cambodia and Lao PDR (RAS/OT/2CK)

The TRAINFORTRADE Regional Project for Cambodia and Laos on Strengthening Training and Capacities for Multilateral Trade Negotiations in the Field of International Trade was launched in Vientiane on 17 November 2003 for Laos and in Phnom Penh on 23 January 2004 for Cambodia.

This four-year project funded by France aims to build up the capacity of Cambodian and Laotian officials, as well representatives from the private sector and academia, in a number of selected topics. The project has established offices in both countries: in Cambodia the project Chief Technical Advisor is stationed in the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce, and from August 2004 a French-funded TRAINFORTRADE associate expert has been working in the Lao Ministry of Commerce.

Since the two launches, a national steering committee has been created in each country. These committees will report to a regional steering committee. H.E. Siasavath Savengsuksa, Vice Minister of Commerce, is the national project coordinator for Laos. H.E. Sok Siphana, Secretary of State for Commerce, is the national project coordinator for Cambodia. The involvement of these ministers has ensured that the project activities are in line with national trade and poverty reduction policies and with the international commitments of both countries.

In the period January - September 2004, nine seminars and workshops were organized reaching over 160 participants. These seminars included a session for distance learning training of tutors, port training activities, and training in investment agreements, as well as competition law and policy.

In addition to the activities organized in the framework of the project, TRAINFORTRADE has been the focal point in the region for a number of UNCTAD sections and programmes, in particular for the Trade and Environment Section, the Investment Policy Reviews Section, the International Investments Agreements programme, the World Investment Report 2004, and the Trade Logistics Branch, and it has represented UNCTAD in the pre-DTIS mission of the Integrated Framework for Laos.

Steering committee meetings are scheduled for the beginning of 2005, when project stakeholders will decide on the activities for 2005. A project website is to be launched, providing a one-stop shop for all information on the TRAINFORTRADE project for Laos and Cambodia.

5.2 Cooperation with regional groupings

International meeting on "Training and capacity building: the role of regional integration groupings"

Strengthening regional integration groupings has been a priority for TRAINFORTRADE. Regional integration groupings can provide a strategic approach to building human resource capacity that uses existing structures that can support capacity building at both the national and regional level.

In this sense, regional organizations can be both partners and beneficiaries – providing institutional capacity building within the organizations (e.g. developing training capacity, the use of new ICTs and distance learning techniques), as well as working as partners so as to capitalize on their existing activities and to target training activities more effectively.

It is within this framework that representatives from regional organizations and countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean met from 15 to 19 March in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, to examine a regional approach to training in the areas of trade, investment, and ICT development. The meeting was organized by TRAINFORTRADE with the support of the Las Palmas Chamber of Commerce, the Cabildo de Gran Canaria, and the Fundación Puertos de Gran Canaria.

Following on from this meeting, several regional integration groupings from Africa, including CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, UEMOA, COMESA, SADC and UMA, have requested UNCTAD's assistance in developing joint training and capacity building programmes in key areas of trade and investment.

Contacts have also been established with regional organizations in Asia, including APEC and ASEAN, and in Latin America with ALADI.

In November 2004, TRAINFORTRADE participated in a Consultative Meeting on Trade, Investment and Capacity Building Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa organized by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in Harare, Zimbabwe. The meeting examined the key issues regarding training and capacity building strategies for international trade and investment in sub-Saharan African countries and regional integration groupings.

5.3 Port Training Programme Activities 2003-2004

5.3.1 Development of pedagogical material

Since August 2003, pedagogical material has been updated in French (in collaboration with the Port of Marseille and the Port of Ghent) and in Portuguese (in collaboration with the Port of Leixões and Cape Verde).

Module 5c of the Port Training Programme - Port Computerization and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) - is now available via distance learning in French, and a Portuguese version is being prepared.

English versions are being prepared for the last four modules of the training of trainers workshop for the course "Modern port management".

5.3.2. Implementation

Since August 2003, the TRAINFORTRADE Port Training Programme has undertaken the following activities:

- **French-speaking network** Cameroon, Guinea, Togo and Tunisia have put in place the port training programme and have organized the first national seminars for their respective port communities. Senegal and Benin have continued their regular training activities. Cameroon is in the process of finishing the second training cycle with 25 participants, and has used the distance learning version of Module 5c. Togo and Guinea are organizing the trainees' presentation of their theses.

A Training of Trainers workshop combining both distance and face to face learning was organized in Leixões, Portugal, from 15 to 26 September 2003, for the French and Portuguese speaking countries. 17 participants from Benin, Cape Verde, Guinea, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia were trained.
- **Portuguese-speaking network** Cape Verde has completed a full cycle of national training for 36 participants. Before the end of 2004, Angola has organized the presentation of theses for the 16 participants, in november
- **English-speaking countries** Cambodia has begun to implement the port training programme. Since 2004, a total of nine participants from Sihanoukville Autonomous Port and nine other participants from Phnom Pehn Port have been engaged in the training.

Between August 2003 and December 2004, 79 participants and 55 instructors were trained. This makes a total of 549 port operators who have been trained since the beginning of the programme.

5.3.3 Strengthening the programme:

TRAINFORTRADE coordination meeting, Geneva, September 2004

In September 2004, a meeting took place in Geneva to coordinate the port training activities for 2005. This meeting brought together 14 representatives of port communities from Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Guinea, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia. Participants assessed their recent and current activities and defined new priorities for 2005.

The meeting made a number of recommendations, and these were used to agree on a scheme for future actions that will follow the steps outlined below:

1. Formulating the necessary pedagogic criteria to begin the training;
2. Organizing training of trainers workshops;
3. Payment of annual contributions to the UNCTAD Trust Fund for conducting technical assistance activities;
4. National training deliveries in the beneficiary port communities;
5. Distance learning delivery of Module 5c of the Programme ("Port Computerization and Electronic Data Interchange – EDI");
6. Trainees' presentation of their theses to an expert jury and ceremony for awarding UNCTAD Port Training Certificates;
7. Organization of the 2005 Tripartite/Regional Steering Committee meeting

6. Cooperation with institutions from developed countries

TRAINFORTRADE continues to follow existing partnerships with relevant institutions. In addition, in the period August 2003-October 2004, several new partnerships were established and cooperation agreements were signed by TRAINFORTRADE with specialized institutions in developed countries.

- **Belgium:**

- The cooperation agreement with the **Port of Ghent** continues on all technical aspects related to port training.

- **France:**

- Under the cooperation agreement between UNCTAD and the **Port Authority of Marseille**, the updating of pedagogical material and the distance-learning delivery of the port training cycle has continued.
- UNCTAD has also continued to cooperate with the **Port Authority of Dunkirk** for the distance learning delivery of the legal aspects of the port training cycle

- **Italy:**

- In 2001 a memorandum of understanding was signed between UNCTAD and the **Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE)** for the implementation of joint training activities in the field of international trade.

- **Portugal:**

- Cooperation was established with the **Administração dos Portos do Douro e Leixões** for the training of port trainers and for the provision of support to distance learning for African countries with Portuguese as the official language (PALOP).

- **Spain:**

- In the framework of the cooperation agreement between UNCTAD and Gran Canaria (**Cabildo de Gran Canaria, the Chamber of Commerce of Las Palmas and the Canary Foundation-Ports of Las Palmas**), an interregional meeting was held on International Trade, Investment and Human Resources Development: The Role of Regional Integration Groupings of States. New ways of cooperating are being explored separately with each of the three donor entities.
- The existing cooperation between UNCTAD and the **Fundación Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperación de la Comunidad Valenciana (FEPORTS)** is being revised to cover new training activities in the field of port management.

7. Support of donors for technical assistance activities

- **Belgium** funded a pilot project for the application of distance learning techniques in the field of trade negotiations and international investment agreements, as well as an associate expert based in Mali
- **France** has continued to fund the TRAINFORTRADE Central Support Team in Geneva, as well as the regional project for Cambodia and Lao PDR. From August 2004, France has also funded an Associate Expert based in Lao PDR
- **Portugal** funded support activities for building capacities through training in African countries with Portuguese as the official language (PALOP) and provided financial support for the pre-UNCTAD XI High-Level International Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism for Development.
- **Spain** funded a programme to support interregional cooperation in training.
- **Germany** has funded an associate expert based in Geneva.

8. Advisory Group on the Strengthening of UNCTAD's Training Capacities and Human Resources Development

In January 2004 the Advisory Group on Human Resources Development (HRD) met in Geneva to give advice and guidance on strengthening the development of human resources in UNCTAD's technical assistance work. The particular focus of the meeting was the use of distance learning and ICT to promote training and capacity building in UNCTAD's areas of expertise.

The advisory group is made up of five high-level experts representing five training and educational institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and draws on a wide range of experiences and skills. The group reviewed the progress made in the area of distance learning in 2003. In particular they recognized both the opportunities and the challenges arising from the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and expressed the need to assist LDCs in particular so that they can benefit from these techniques.

The following recommendations were also made on the overall strategy of the training and capacity building programmes:

- Continued and enhanced cooperation between the HRD group and the other parts of UNCTAD;
- Continued support through technical assistance for the development of training capacities in developing countries, in particular in LDCs.

9. TRAINFORTRADE priorities to the end of 2005

In the light of the recommendations of the HRD advisory group and in line with the framework set out at the Bangkok Conference and reiterated in São Paulo, the priorities of TRAINFORTRADE for the coming years are:

- In line with the recommendations from the distance learning evaluation, the development of a programme to support capacity building using distance learning targeted at the least developed countries. This programme will include the development of distance learning material on key issues in international trade and investment and the training of distance learning tutors in the beneficiary countries.
- The implementation of the recommendations of the meeting on Training and Capacity Building: The Role of Regional Integration Groupings, which took place in Las Palmas between 15 and 19 March 2004, in particular those concerning support for training and capacity building in international trade for regional organizations in Africa.
- The implementation of the results of the Port Training Coordination Meeting for Francophone and Lusophone Countries. This meeting defined the steps and methods required to strengthen regional cooperation and planned the delivery of new distance learning modules in beneficiary countries.
- The finalization and validation of a new TRAINFORTRADE training module on Sustainable Tourism for Development.
- The definition of a plan of action for building training capacity in small island developing countries in conjunction with the related Conference in Mauritius (planned for the beginning of 2005).
- The organization of an interregional coordination and cooperation meeting on capacity building activities for training in international trade and investment.



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

TRAINFORTRADE

2003-2004

TRAINFORTRADE Programme

Division for Services Infrastructure
for Development and Trade Efficiency (SITE)

**Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVA 10
(SWITZERLAND)**

Tel: +41.22.917.19.75

Fax: +41.22.917.00.50

E-mail : trainfortrade@unctad.org

<http://www.unctad.org/trainfortrade>



UNITED NATIONS